



**HIS HOLINESS SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE MAHARAJ**

**NAMDHARI SIKH HERITAGE SOCIETY**

**96 UPTON LANE, LONDON E7 9LW**



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## NAMDHARI SIKH HERITAGE SOCIETY



*WISDOM*

TO

HIS HOLINESS SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE MAHARAJ

It is with great privilege and honour, I am able to inform our esteemed Sangat that after what seemed to be an interminable wait, HIS DIVINE HOLINESS SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE MAHARAJ will be amidst us instant.

It is needless to say that Shri Satguru Jee is always with us, in our minds and spirits (wherever in any part of the world) HIS DIVINE HOLINESS may be in, but you will be all agree with me, it is this HOLY DARSHAN we all pine for all the time.

The credit for this trip has to go to all Indian and some Patriotic societies as INDIA FORUM UK, INDIAN OVERSEAS CONGRESS (LONDON), SIKH FORUM (UK), MAHATMA GANDHI FOUNDATION, INDIA WELFARE CENTRE, FEDERATION OF INDIAN IN ABROAD (UK), WORLD PEACE COUNCIL, INT. INST. OF WORLD PEACE including MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF LORDS, HOUSE OF COMMONS, THE LORD MAYORS of many boroughs and others to welcome SHRI SATGURU JEE to seek HIS HOLY BLESSING. HIS HOLINESS SHRI SATGURU JEE is spending more time in promoting world peace, understanding and harmony among the different religions and communities.

During SHRI SATGURU JEE'S this visit a number of functions have been organised by NAMDHARI SIKH HERITAGE SOCIETY as SATGURU PARTAP SINGH SANGEET SAMELAN and RECEPTION at LONDON HILTON PARK LANE W.I.

I whole heartily thanks to H. E.DR. L.M. Singhvi, High Commissioner Of India, and S. Ranjit Singh of R.K. Constructions whose guidance and kind cooperation make this trip possible and fruitful.

And last not least I will be much grateful to my co-workers and organising societies for their best cooperation to facilitate the warm welcome to His Holiness SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE.

Yours Sincerely

R.S. CHANA

President Namdhari Sangat (UK)

*With Best Wishes & Compliments to  
Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society  
On Shri Satguru Partap Langeet Samelan*



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नई दिल्ली-110011  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
INDIA  
NEW DELHI-110011

March 7, 1996

### MESSAGE

I am glad to know that Namdhari Sangat of U.K. is organising a Reception and Music Festival in honour of His Holiness Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj at London.

Constituting an important component of the people of Indian origin in the U.K. Namdhari Sikhs have projected the image of the country in the right perspective and meaningfully contributed to the promotion of Indo-U.K. friendship. Through their manifold activities they have not only flourished materially but kept alive the everlasting spiritual ethos of India. On the occasion of holding a Reception and Music Festival in honour of His Holiness Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji, who is the rallying point and source of spiritual solace for the millions of Namdhari Sikhs in the world, I have great pleasure in sending my good wishes for their future success.

(K.R. NARAYANAN)



**With Best Wishes**

from  
***Joginder Sangar***

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From the Private Secretary

28 February 1996

*Dear Mr Chana -*

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter dated 21 February inviting him to a Reception in honour of His Holiness Satguru Jagjit Singhji on 23 March, and a Music Festival on 31 March and 1 April.

Sadly, the Prime Minister's existing diary commitments during that period make it impossible for him to join you at either event and he must therefore decline your kind invitation. He is so sorry to have to send such a disappointing reply, but has asked me to pass on to you and all concerned his good wishes for an enjoyable and successful occasion.

*Yours sincerely,  
Andrew*

MISS ARABELLA WARBURTON

Mr. R. S. Chana



*Compliments & Best Wishes*

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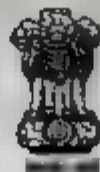
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प्रधान मंत्री  
PRIME MINISTER



MESSAGE

I would like to extend my best wishes to the members of the Namdhari Sangat who have taken great pains to organise a reception in honour of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj and a music festival on March 31 and April 1, 1996. I also greet the outstanding artistes who shall perform during this event, which I am sure will be a notable success.

*P.V. Narasimha Rao*  
(P.V. Narasimha Rao)

New Delhi  
March 12, 1996



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Sonia Gandhi  
Chairperson

March 02, 1996



Dear Shri Hanspal,

Thank you for sending me the invitation to the Reception being organised in honour of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagat Singh Ji Maharaj. I regret that it will not be possible for me to attend this function in London due to other commitments here. However, I send my best wishes for the success of the function and my regards and respects to His Holiness. I shall be grateful if you will also convey my thanks to the Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sonia Gandhi'.

Shri H S Hanspal, ex-MP  
10 Darya Ganj  
New Delhi - 110 002

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Welcome to His Holiness  
Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee  
&  
Congratulations to Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society*

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20 March, 1996

Dr. L.M. Singhvi

MESSAGE

I consider it my great pleasure and privilege to welcome His Holiness Sat Guru Jagjit Singhji Maharaj on his present visit to the United Kingdom, and would like to take this opportunity to felicitate him in the context of the completion of his 75th birthday last November, which we in India call the Amrit Mahotsava and those in Britain call the Platinum Jubilee.

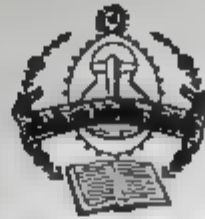
Namdhari Sangat has a glorious tradition. Sat Guru Ram Singhji Maharaj wrote a golden chapter in the proud history of Sikh and Hindu heritage. Acknowledged by one and all, he gave unto us all the message of social transformation, spirituality and cultural unity and solidarity.

Sat Guru Jagjit Singhji Maharaj is a towering figure in the footsteps of that great master, Sat Guru Ram Singhji Maharaj. He has nurtured India's multi-cultural vision. I respect him profoundly and love him deeply. My wife and I have had the privilege of having him visit our home. We have received his affection in abundance. He stands for the finest values of India's timeless culture. His patronage of Indian classical music and his extraordinary creativity in that field are a source of inspiration not only to the Sangat but to the larger community of Indian art and culture and to the mainsprings of Bhakti. My salutations to him and my greetings to all adherents and admirers of Namdhari Sikh heritage.

(L.M. Singhvi)  
High Commissioner

MR. R.S. CHAND  
President, Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society (UK)  
President, Namdhari Sangat (UK)  
96 Upton Lane  
Forest Gate  
London E7 9LW





*Humble & Whole Hearted Welcome*

*His Holiness Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee*

"O my soul, grasp the protection of the Saint  
and lay aside thy argumentation and cleverness.

He within whose heart, Guru's instruction  
abides has goodluck recorded on his brow, O Nanak."

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पत्रिका

नई दिल्ली-110001

FINANCE MINISTER

INDIA

NEW DELHI-110001

March 8, 1996

Dear Hanafal ji,

Many thanks for your letter of 7th March 1996. I am very happy to learn that Namdhari Sangat of United Kingdom is organising a Reception in Honour of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj at London Hilton on 23rd March, and a Festival of Classical Music on 31st March and 1st April, 1996.

On this auspicious occasion, I send my greetings and best wishes to the Namdhari Sangat of United Kingdom who will have the honour of being blessed by His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Manmohan Singh  
(MANMOHAN SINGH)

Shri H.S. Hanspal,  
Ex-Member of Parliament,  
10, Darya Ganj,  
New Delhi - 110002.

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DR (SMT) NAJMA HEPTULLA

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN  
RAJYA SABHA  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
NEW DELHI

March 7, 1996



M E S S A G E

I am happy to learn that Namdhari Sangat of the United Kingdom is organising a Reception in honour of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj at London on the 23rd March, 1996 and a festival of classical music on 31st March and 1st April, 1996. Namdhari sect among the Sikhs is known for its contribution towards social service and the upliftment of women. It has also greatly contributed in the field of music both, classical and kirtan. I have had many occasions to hear the wonderful performances both vocal and instrumental by various young artists of the community. These achievements could take place because of the benevolent guidance of His Holiness.

I am very happy that this function is being organised in London where a large number of Sikh community and other Indians are living and where young musicians as well as maestros would be participating. Besides, the function would project the national unity of our country where participants of different faith and belief would perform from the same stage under the guidance and blessings of His Holiness. I wish the function great success and I hope that the Namdhari sect will continue with its contribution to the cultural and social enrichment of our society.

Mr. R.S. Chana,  
President,  
Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society(UK),  
96 Upton Lane, Forest Gate,  
London, E7.

*Najma Heptulla*  
(NAJMA HEPTULLA)



*Best Wishes & compliments from 4 Bahras to Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society  
on His Divine Holiness Shri Satguru Sacha Patshah Jee's visit to U K*

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MINISTER FOR STATE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI-110011

March 13, 1996

# MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society is holding a Reception in honour of His Holiness Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji on 23 February and a Music Festival on 31 March and 1 April in London.

Namdhari Sikhs are well known for their deep commitment to spiritualism. The followers of this sect have also done commendable work in uplifting spiritual values and have always set high standards in their personal lives.

On this occasion I congratulate the Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society for their endeavours and wish them all success.

( R.L. Bhatia )



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INDIA




March 8, 1996

M E S S A G E

I am happy to learn that Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society, United Kingdom is organising a Classical Music Festival on 31st March and 1st April, 1996. I appreciate the laudable efforts of the Society to propagate the Classical Music of India by inviting great musicians like Ustad Amjad Ali Khan. I am sure, the presence of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh ji Maharaj will considerably inspire the devotees and go a longway in promoting mutual tolerance, peace and goodwill for the mankind.

I wish all success to the Organisers of this function.

  
( SUKHBANS KAUR )

Office : 301 Transport Bhawan 1 Second Mary New Delhi 110001 Tel 3718310 3717969  
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*With best compliments from & Regards  
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From: KEITH VAZ MP

12 March 1996  
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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Mr S S Jeet  
Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society  
96 Upton Lane  
Forest Gate  
London E7 9LW

Dear Mr Jeet

Thank you for your recent letter and for your kind invitation to attend the dinner on 23 March 1996

It gives me great pleasure in sending you my best wishes on this special occasion. Organisations like yours help to uphold the heritage and cultural activities to the benefit of the community

I look forward to being present at the event.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

KEITH VAZ



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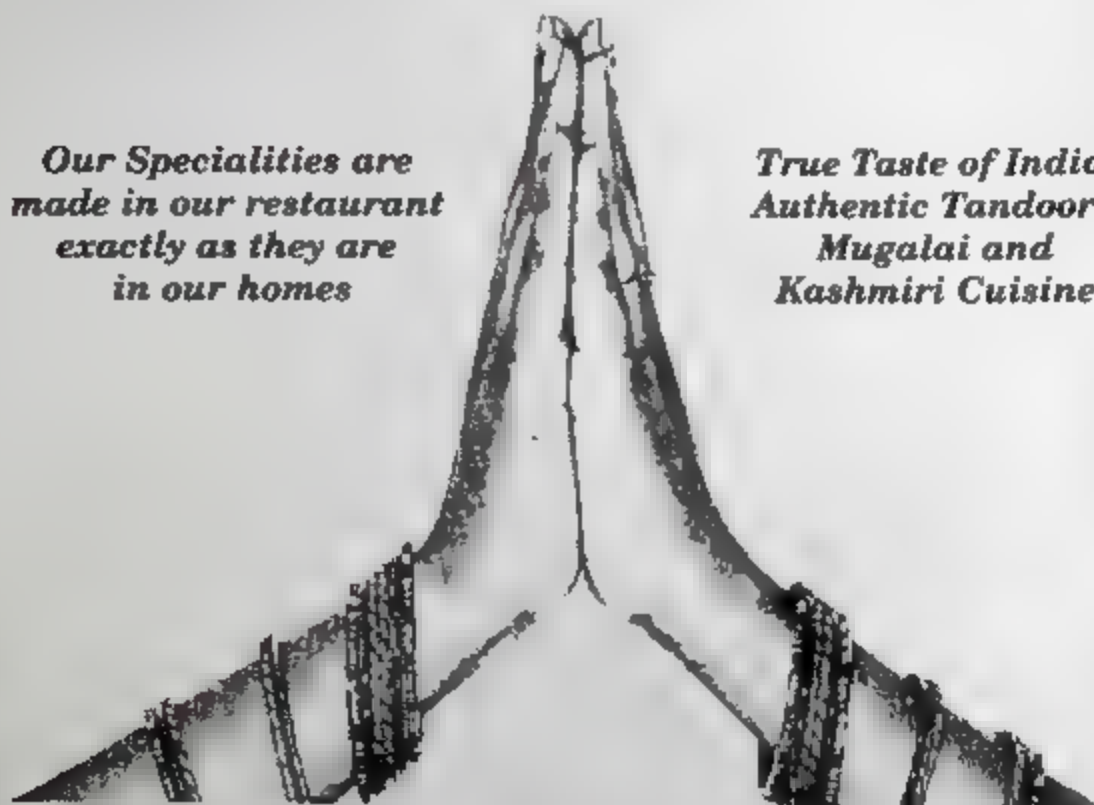
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Speaker,  
Punjab Legislative Assembly,  
Chandigarh.

Dated.....**13.3.96**.....

MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to know that Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society - London is organising a reception in honour of Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji on 23rd March, 1996, at London and a brochure is being brought to mark the occasion.

His Holiness Satguru Jagjit Singh needs no introduction. He is an introduction in himself. It would not be an exaggeration if I say that Satguru has devoted his whole life for preaching the noble ideals of his great religious ancestors and for the betterment of the humanity as a whole. I hope that you will agree with me that religious personalities like Satguru are always above worldly functions but the reception which Namdhari Sangat of J.K. is organising in honour of Satguru reflects the feelings and sentiments of the Sangat has for the Guru.

I congratulate you and send my good wishes for the success of the function.

  
(HARNAM DAS JOHAR)

Congratulations & best wishes



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## THE MODERN MESSIAH

**H.S. Hanspal**

Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society deserves all the appreciation for organising a fabulous reception and festival of classical music in divine honour of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj the present Supreme Spiritual Head of Sikhs. It shall be a rare occasion for the Sikhs living in U.K. after a long gap that they will be having the darshans and receive blessings of Sri Satguru Ji.

The English people in United Kingdom perceive Sri Satguru Ji as Rain-Maker, since in 1976 after a long dry spell when in England drought like situation prevailed, it was at the request of Britishers, that His Holiness prayed and it rained to give respite to the people.

His Holiness the True Master is the living fountainhead of inspiration for the Sikhs, specially the Namdhari Sikhs all over the world today. The mission of Sri Satguru Ji is distinctly not different from further from that of the earlier Satgurus who had taught to sacrifice for the freedom of motherland and freedom of justice for the people of India. The present His Holiness's task is to carry all the Sikhs to modern age but through the path of dignity and equality of man, cleanliness of body, mind and soul, not only for one's own self but for the rest of the humanity too.

The Namdhari Sikhs are symbols of India's spiritualism, as they are never misled by communal elements. Under the masterly guidance of present Satguru Ji, Namdhan Sikhs are growing in prosperity and strength. Sri Satguru Ji is always on the move to keep contact with the expanding community of Satguru Ram Singh Ji's spiritual kingdom throughout the world.

Yogender Bali a renowned Indian journalist and an author writes his impressions about the present His Holiness, "During the first ever close encounter with the Modern Messiah, he absorbed more the radiance and the magnetism of the Satguru which made him feel as if He could divine his thoughts and was in communion and conversation with him, even when he was silent and just looking at him and smiling."

Sri Satguru Ji initiate men and women into the spiritual power and free human beings truly from evils with the help of pure and sacred Name of God or the Holy NAAM which reveals mysteries and powers of life to them and inspire them to achieve, serve and attain happiness and success in whatever they do. The Namdhari Sikhs have immense faith and are inspired by Holy NAAM and that is the reason they are called the Namdhan Sikhs. With the blessings of Sri Satguru Ji, faith and confidence is imbibed in their bodies, minds and spirit.

Music is the life line of His Holiness and He says, 'Command of God and the Guru can be really understood through the medium of RAAGA or the music composition. A man who understands good music can understand God better and quickly.

The music with the Name of God and words of worship and prayer is surely a way of attainment of spiritual joy.

Good traditional devotional and classical music is one of the prime instruments of His Holiness for the transformation and revolutionise the Sikhs from the age of war to age of peace and from tradition to modernity. The spirit of music and the spirit of divine merge together to create the world of ecstasy.

His Holiness preaches, true religious are those who are gifted with the divine qualities while those who lack these waste their time by entering into disadvantageous and futile altercations, are nothing but irreligious. The Namdhan Sikhs over which the magnetic Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji cast his radiance, is not just a sect or a religion, it is a way of life to create truly free and peaceful society of free and peaceful people in the service of living beings.

I earnestly believe that these celebrations in the honour of Modern Messiah His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj in U.K. shall further strengthen the fraternity and camaraderie between the people of the United Kingdom and the people of India.



CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO  
NAMDHARI SIKH HERITAGE SOCIETY ON



HIS HOLINESS SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE'S VISIT TO U.K.



SUKHEI HAREI KIYEI KHIN MAHEN

N AN INSTANT HAS HE MADE DRY SHOOTS GREEN;  
BY WATER NG WITH THE AMRITA GLANCE HAS HE REVIVED THEM (1)  
THE WORSH PFUL GURU. PERFECTLY ENDOWED. THE DEVOTEE'S TRIBULATIONS HAS  
ANNULLED. AND INSPIRED HIM TO SERVICE TO HIMSELF (PAUSE 1)  
THUS BY GRACE OF THE HOLY PRECEPTOR REPOSITORY OF MERIT HAS ANXIETY ENDED,  
AND THE HEART'S DESIRE FULFILLED (2) SUFFERING HAS FLED, AND HOYS THE SELF HAVE  
PERMEATED: IN THIS. BY THE GURU'S COMMANDMENT HAS OCCURED NO DELAY (3) BY  
UNION WITH THE MASTER. PERFECTLY \_ ENDOWED IS MY DESIRE FULFILLED. BY UNION  
WITH THE MASTER PERFECTLY \_ ENDOWED IS MY DESIRE FULFILLED  
SA TH NANAK THOSE THAT ARE SUCH TRULY ARE FULFILLED (4) 58:127

In our this country we remember, how the gracious Guru have blessed our prayer in 1978 and made a  
rain in the bad draught priod. And I would like to say my own experience in 1989. We (my family and  
my friend Mr S. S. Jeel) we went to Sri Jeevan Nagar (in India) on gracious kind invitation of Shri  
Satguru Jee at Tibba. His Holiness showed us a beautiful fruit trees. It used to be a barren land and  
scientist from three different universities. (H. A. U. Hissar P. A. U. Ludhiana and Institute of Agriculture  
& Scientific Research of New Delhi) they took the samples of the soil from Tibba and declared the  
land as total barren and useless. But with the Holy grace and blessings of His Holiness Shri Satguru  
jee these same land have beautiful fruit tree gardens.



PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY  
LUDHIANA 141004 (INDIA)

Dr. Khem Singh GILL  
Vice-Chancellor

From: Prof. Khem Singh  
To: Shri Satguru Jee  
Subject: Fruit trees  
Date: 22 April 1991

U. K. No. 22/32  
Dated on 22 April 1991

Respected His Holiness Satguru Ji Maharaj,

I am very grateful to you for sending me a couple of baskets filled  
of variety fruits grown at your farm. I had no opportunity to talk about  
this variety on telephone chat with your good self. The fruits supplied  
were of very high quality, had good taste, ripen and appropriate amount  
need. The efforts being made by you in providing betterment also inspire  
me to look for new groups of research in this University as well.

With my kind regards,

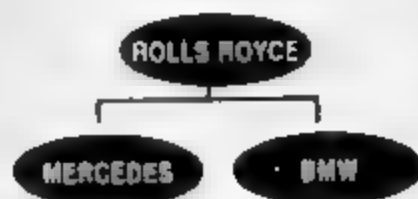
Yours sincerely,

*(Signature)*  
Khem Singh Gill

His Holiness Satguru  
Jee Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj  
Gurdwara, Chahal Sahib  
(India)

*With Best Compliments & Regards We  
Welcome to His Holiness  
Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee*

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**Pt. Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru First Prime Minister of India thanking to His Holiness  
Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee for Namdhari's contribution for Freedom of India**

And long fields of Kinnu, Anar, Grapes. Bar and fruitful trees etc SUKHEI HAREI KIYEI  
KHIN MAHEN Now I humbly request his holiness may he kind enough to hear our Pukar  
(kook) request for the World Peace, with his Holy gracious blessings.

With all the best regards,

Humble Servant  
GURDIAL SINGH (SUBA)  
LEEDS U.K

**CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES  
TO NAMDHARI SIKH HERITAGE SOCIETY  
ON GRACIOUS VISIT OF HIS HOLINESSSHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE.**

**THE SATGURU HAS REVEALD THE GOD'S  
PRESENCE TO US IN THIS WICKED  
WORLD & WORD OF WATER, THE AIR, & EVERYWHERE.**

HUMBLE COMPLIMENTS FROM:  
SATNAM SINGH BHARAJ  
PRESIDENT  
NAMDHARI SANGAT  
LEEDS (UK)





## NAMDHARI SANGAT GERMANY

*Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society  
96 Upton Lane  
Forestgate London E.7  
England.*

*Attn: Mr R.S. Chana, President*

*18 3 1996*

*Respected Mr President,*

*Thank you for your recent communicate of which the contents have been acknowledged.*

*We are very delighted to hear that you are organising such a grand event in honour of Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj and wish you all the success. Here is our message.*

*The British press gave the title of "The Rain - maker" to His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj during the great drought of 1978. This reflects His spirituality, divinity, mercifulness and sincerity not only for His followers but for a country whose leaders deported Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji Maharaj (His great Uncle) the 12th Guru of the Sikhs to Rangoon, Burma during the British Raj in 1872.*

*Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj has created many opportunities and possibilities to bring people from all different walks of life under one roof.  
It is this love and tolerance which has earned His universal recognition.*

*Naturally, we as Namdhari Sikhs feel blessed to have His as our Satguru (True Guru).*

*Namdhari Sangat Germany  
Jaswinder Singh Bhamra*

NAMDHARI SANGAT GERMANY  
Trommelstraße 8 Postfach 304 201  
W-2000 HAMBURG 36  
GERMANY

Tel. 040/ 381177 + 381178  
Fax. 040/387410 Telex. 2165321 SLHHd



*With Best Wishes and Compliments to*  
**NAMDHARI SIKH HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
from



**SETH SUNDER SINGH MANCHANDA ...**  
**INTERNATIONAL WORTHY AND HUMBLE SERVANT OF HIS HOLINESS**  
**SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE**



To,  
Mr R. S Chana Ji,

**SAT SRI AKAL**

On behalf of THE NAMDHARI SANGAT of Denmark, I extend greetings to His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj, and convey best wishes for Sangeet Samelan 96 celebrating in England. May Sri Satguru Ji grace The Sangat of Denmark.

Wishing also for a happy & successful programmes in London.

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*With Best Wishes and Regards  
We Welcome  
His Holiness Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee  
&  
With Best Compliments & Congratulations To  
Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society*

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#### KING OF CONNOISSEURS

MUSIC MAKES LIFE A SYMPHONY WHEN SATGURU IS THE CONDUCTOR, AND GOD GIVES THE HEARTS A VOICE TO SOUND ITS JOY SATGURU CALLS IT MUSIC  
HIS HOLINESS SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE AMONG THE MUSICIANS



ਸ੍ਰੀ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਕਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਸਹਾਇ ॥



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SANGAT - NAIROBI**

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TELEX

**The President,  
Namdhari Sangat U.K.,  
Forest Gate,  
London.**

Dear Sir,

The Namdhari Sangat of Kenya extends our greetings to the Namdhari Sangat U K on the auspicious visit of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj to England You are indeed blessed to have been given this opportunity to host Sri Satguru Ji His Divine Darshar brings peace and tranquility to our minds, renewing our beliefs and faith.

We congratulate you on the formation of the 'Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society' in U K and its inauguration by Sri Satguru Ji It is of utmost importance that our culture and heritage be safeguarded from various outside influences. His Holiness puts great emphasis on maintaining and protecting our precious culture and his message to the world is to live in peace, love all mankind, simple and truthful living, vegetarian way of life and abstaining from all forms of worldly vices. His love for the Indian Classical music is renowned This is the answer to all problems the world is facing today.

Since the proposed Society is to propagate these high ideals, we extend our support and wish you every success.

Sat Sri Akal!

Yours faithfully,

*Manjeet Singh Bhuller*

**Manjeet Singh Bhuller  
(Chairman).**



# **NAMDHARI SANGAT TANZANIA**

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TANZANIA

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051 865820  
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*THE PRESIDENT.*

NAMDHARI SANGAT(UK)  
FOREST-GATE  
LONDON

**DEAR SIR,**

*On behalf of the Namdhari Sangat of Tanzania we wish to extend our felicitations and greetings to the entire Sadh Sangat of UK on the auspicious visit of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh ji Maharaj to England.*

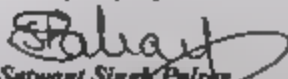
*Sache Padshah's visit's always brings peace and tranquillity to our wavering minds. They renew commitment to our faith, strengthen our beliefs and provide divine inspiration. His graceful presence restores our sentiments that somehow got waned in this materialistic world. We congratulate you all that you will have the wonderful opportunity of getting Satguru's blessings in person.*

*We are excited and very pleased to know about the formation of "Namdhari/Heritage Society" in UK and more so that it will be inaugurated by Sache Padshah Himself.*

SIR

*Nations, Societies and faiths will perish if they do not take care of their culture and heritage. Our youths of today must have the vision and direction to follow. The proposed society will provide that. We believe that this is a step in the right direction and congratulate you on it's inauguration. We are with you and wish you every success.*

Sat Sri Akal  
Yours faithfully

  
Satwant Singh Palraj  
Chairman  
Namdhari Sangat Tanzania



*His Holiness Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee Maharaj*



## Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society

SRI SATGURU PARTAP SINGH JEE SANGEET SAMELAN

Under the Gracious kind patronage of  
His Holiness Sat Guru Jagjit Singh Ji (Spiritual Head Of Namdhari Sikhs)



H H SHRI SATGURU PARTAP SINGH JEE MAHARAJ

**PROGRAMME**

**SUNDAY 31st March 96**

Kirpan Pal Singh  
SANTOOR

Disciple of Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma  
Sukhdev Singh & Mohan Singh

Disciples of Pt. Rajan Sajan Misra  
VOCAL

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan  
SAROD

Sukhwinder Singh Namdhari  
TABLA

Sarutik - Tanpura

**MONDAY 1st APRIL 96.**

Gurdev Singh  
SAROD

Disciples of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan  
Shahid Parvez

SITAR

Vijay Ghate

TABLA

Pt. Birju Jee Maharaj  
And the Kathak Dance Company

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## CHRISTMAS MORNING IN THE PUNJAB

My blessed days at the feet of His Holiness Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee Maharaj Messiahs of T  
Love and World Peace. With my host family.

Dr. Thomas Clough Daffern

You welcomed  
me into your  
warm home  
on Christmas Eve.

We sat  
and discussed  
the mysteries  
of past and future  
times, while  
the children played  
and the older wise ones  
shared their stories.

You answered  
all my questions  
patiently, and your  
kind wives prepared  
a feast of mercy fit  
for kings and friends.

In the night's  
long watch  
for Christmas  
we dreamed and prayed  
and slept in snatches,  
our spirits coiled  
like clouds around  
a swift moon,  
ever vanishing  
yet constant.

Satguru was to come  
in the small still  
hours to bless  
your house like  
the Christmas father  
bringing the great  
present of grace,  
priceless beyond  
all possessiveness.

Awakening on Christmas morning  
I find myself surrounded  
by the scattered presents of being,  
everything miraculous,  
counterpanes, chairs,  
shoes, blankets, curtains,  
with the pale light of dawn seeping  
in slowly, like a white velvet prayer-kiss.

Thank you  
to the blessing Gurus  
of long lineage,  
and to the Messiahs  
of patience and true love.

May we learn all  
their teachings  
and remember them  
in our every thought  
and feeling.

May all your  
names of glory,  
all your paths,  
lead surely  
to the sacred morning  
of pure light  
and the one true awakeining.

Wherever the path  
leads us from here,  
may it always lead us there,  
to the land of presence,  
to the great unity  
of the divine spaciousness,  
and through your strong  
strange grace,  
regather us hence  
as children  
on that final morning.



Dr Thomas Clough Daffern  
(Director)

International Institute for  
Peace and Global Responsibility  
Institute of Education University  
of London



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ਸ੍ਰੀ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਸਹਾਇ

NAMDHARI SANGAT CANADA (SOCIETY) ONT. INC. 553200

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To the members of the Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society

We are very glad to know that the Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society of UK is going to hold a huge reception ceremony in honour of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji under whose kind and generous yet disciplinarian eye, Namdhari Sikhs are spreading the divine mission of peace, love, simple living, & high thinking all over the world

Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society has also taken a good step to invite many prominent leaders of the government of U.K., government of India, and representatives of other religious & social societies. I am very grateful to the executive and other members of the Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society for inviting the members of the Namdhari Sangat Canada Society-Ontario on this auspicious occasion. This way we will have the opportunity to see His Holiness live in person and listen to his Pravachans (Divine Words). I am also very happy to know that we will be able to see sangeet sabhas in which many distinguished artists are taking part.

Once again, I congratulate the Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society-UK for organizing such a noble gathering

Yours Sincerely

*Rsbajwa*

Ranjit Singh Bajwa

General Secretary

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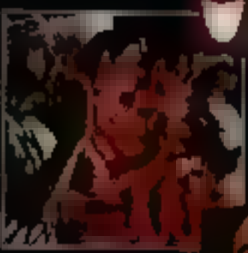
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## Salutations to the memory of Satguru Partap Singh Ji and the first teachers In Bhaini Sahib School of Music

Pratap Singh Kaur

Year 1928 The Namdhari School of Music in Bhaini Sahib resounded for the first time with the musical notes "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa". This was the result of a great endeavour by Satguru Partap Singh Ji. He knew that music is the food for the Almighty God and the human soul and how in the company of Satguru Nanak Dev Ji, Bhai Mardana's rebab attuned the Guru's soul to the Infinite by sounding the note of "Sat Kartar".

Satguru Ram Singh Ji re-established Satguru Nanak Dev Ji's spiritual kingdom. In his presence Asa Di Var was sung every morning and every religious gathering in the evening also started with devotional music by skilled singers. Satguru Ji undertook a painstaking search for skilled musicians and rababis, in order to preserve and hand over to the posterity the centuries-old traditional compositions in their original form. It was the first attempt to preserve the traditional melodies, rhythms, vocal traditions, and musical renderings of the hymns. In addition to making his contribution towards the spiritual, political and social regeneration of the nation, he took his responsibility towards music very seriously. The work he started was carried on by Satguru Han Singh Ji.

We concentrate here on Satguru Partap Singh Ji's times. First of all, he himself learnt the discipline of music and to play the dhruba from Bhai Mastan Singh, disciple of Bhai Gajja Singh of Patiala. In his young days, his main interests were studying and reciting Gurbani and attaining physical fitness. Then came his desire to learn and gain insight into the Indian classical music.

The result of his love for music was that he started getting his sons educated in music from their tender years.

Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji says that his musical education started at the age of four years and six months. This means that he started playing the notes in the second half of the year 1925. His first teacher was Bhai Harman Singh of Chawinda, district Amritsar. Bhai Harman Singh was the star musician of the Namdhari divans (spiritual gatherings) for a considerable period, particularly in his young days. This inspiring artist with a medium height and white complexion gave a new direction to vocal music based on folk melodies.

But Satguru Ji later on turned away from folk music and started preferring classical music. So he handed over his children's musical education on traditional Shabad singing to the musicians of the eastern Rababi school - Bhai Dattu, Bhai Kirpal Singh, Bhai Kalu, Bhai Lal, Bhai Taba, Bhai Nasir and others, and thus he perpetuated the classical tradition.

Ustad Bhai Harman Singh Chawinda was the first music teacher who lived in Shri Bhauri Sahib continuously for 25 years and thus devoted the best part of his life to the teaching of the art of music to the children there. His conduct and life style were highly artistic, but regulated by strict discipline. Early morning bath and starting his day with a recitation of God's name were the strict principles of his life. His life was all music, and strict regularity and discipline were its keynotes. While living in Bhauri Sahib, I got an opportunity to serve him and to learn from him. At that time, he appeared to be about 50 years old.

His first residence was in a cottage near the present day crematorium of Bhauri Sahib. He walked from here to the school to teach music from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. in winter and from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. in summer. The room where Satguru's children and other children were given

music lessons was in the north-western corner of the red-brick building near Ramsar. In order to enable children sing rhythmically at the correct tempo, Satguru Partap Singh Ji got a "tempo machine" prepared by Ganda Singh, a carpenter and later on a Suba. This machine produced ticking sounds of the rhythmic beats of "teen taal", "chaar taal", "dhamar" etc. The sounds of the "taal" and the "dhaali" beats were clearly distinguishable.

Bhai Harnam Singh's hard work, initiative and pedagogical skills inculcated certain qualities in his students - absolute clarity, discipline, soft speech and other artistic qualities. There were two classes of students according to their age. Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji was in one of them, and Maharaj Bar Singh Ji was in the other.

Meticulous attention was paid to the correctness of the note and the correctness of pronunciation.

Around 1932, two other music Ustads (teachers) joined the school. They were the veteran musician Ustad Udho Khan and his son Ustad Rahim Balhish. They were from Rampur, a village in the south-east of Bhaura Sahib. They were artists belonging to the Talwandi school of music. They taught us Chhota Khayal, Vadda Khayal, Dhrupad and Dhamar. These Muslim artists got the same respect as Bhai Harnam Singh did.

Since Satguru Partap Singh Ji was a great connoisseur of music, especially of classical music, he wished that the students of the school of music should not pay attention to anything else. But Ustad Harnam Singh always wished his students to attend and participate in musical concerts and festivals and enter competitions so that they could assess their strength and develop a competitive spirit.

The music School of Bhaura Sahib owes its modern unique status to the hard work, dedication and teaching of Ustad Harnam Singh, Ustad Udho Khan and Ustad Rahim Balhish.

Now under the patronage of Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji, the students of this school are making their debut in the field of music.

Satguru Ji's loving care is enabling many young people from the Namdhari School to learn music from the best vocal and instrumental musicians. Before naming the students of the modern maestros, let us mention the names of the students of Ustad Harnam Singh, Udho Khan and Rahim Balhish.

#### FIRST GROUP

1. Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji
2. Pandit Rajinder Singh, Gurumar, district Ferozpur
3. Shri Kundan Singh Nakai, village Sahari, district Lahore
4. Shri Tarlok Singh Nakai, village Sahari, district Lahore
5. Shri Balwant Singh, son of S. Sant Singh, Bir Marararu
6. Pratam Singh Kaur, village Dapharke, district Lahore-Nabha
7. Shri Santokh Singh Rakhe, Gujarawala

#### SECOND GROUP

1. Maharaj Bar Singh Ji
2. Shri Harnam Singh Chandarhans, village Kotli Arur, district Gujarawala
3. Shri Meen Singh, village Kotli Arur, district Gujarawala
4. Shri Gurbakhsh Singh, Rawalpindi
5. Shri Balwant Singh, Rawalpindi



In the more recent times, the perceptor-disciple tradition started by Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji, has been a testimony to his sensitivity towards and intense love for music. Below we list the great maestros and their disciples in this tradition

**I       Ustad Vilayat Khan**

- |   |                                 |         |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Shri Dharamvir Singh, U.K.      | (sitar) |
| 2 | Shri Sher Singh Chawla, U.S.A.  | (sitar) |
| 3 | Shri Baljit Singh, Khapar Khen  | (vocal) |
| 4 | Shri Mohan, Bhamu Sahib         | (vocal) |
| 5 | Shri Sukhdev Singh, Bhamu Sahib | (vocal) |

**II       Ustad Amjad Ali Khan**

- |    |                             |         |
|----|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Shri Gurdev Singh, U K      | (sarod) |
| 2. | Shri Harbhajan Singh, Delhi | (sitar) |

**III       Pandit Ram Narayan, Bombay**

- |    |                                   |           |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Shri Surjit Singh, Delhi          | (sarangi) |
| 2. | Shri Arvinder Singh, Mandi/Bombay | (sarangi) |

**IV       Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma (santoor)**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Shri Harjinderpal Singh, Jabbal Pur |
| 2 | Shri Kiranpal Singh, U K            |
| 3 | Shri Harpal Singh Bhalli (Nairobi)  |

**V       Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia (flute)**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Shri Satpal Singh, Jammu |
|---|--------------------------|

**VI       Pandit Krishan Maharaj, Banaras (tabla)**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Shri Sukhdev Singh, Jalandhar                |
| 2. | Shri Sukhwinder Singh Puri, U.K./Bhamu Sahib |
| 3. | Shri Harpal Singh Bhalli, Nairobi            |
| 4. | Shri Sukhwinder Singh, Jalandhar             |
| 5. | Shri Sukhdev Singh Sukha, Bhamu Sahib        |

**VII       Pandit Birju Maharaj (classical dance)**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Shri Amar Singh, Amba/Bhamu Sahib |
|---|-----------------------------------|

**VIII       Pandit Durga Lal (classical dance)**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Shri Balwant Singh, Delhi                  |
| 2. | Shri Sukhdev Singh, Bhamu Sahib (pakhawaj) |

- IX Pandit Sarota Prasad, Banaras (tabla)**
- 1 (Late) Shri Avtar Singh, Amritsar
  2. Shri Gurdit Singh, Delhi
- X Ustad Alla Rakha Khan (tabla)**
- 1 Shri Jatinderpal Singh, Jalandhar (pachawaj)
  2. Shri Kulwant Singh, Jalandhar (tabla)
  - 3 Shri Tarsem Singh, Jalandhar (tabla)
  4. Shri Kulwinder Singh, Jalandhar
  - 5 Shri Sunder Singh, Mandi/Bombay
- XI Ustad Bismilla Khan (Shehnai)**
- 1 Shri Baljit Singh, Khapar Kheri
- XII Ustad Ptara Singh (tar shehnai)**
- 1 Shri Gurdev Singh
  - 2 Thakur Uday Singh
  - 3 Shri Baljit Singh, Khapar Kheri
  - 4 Shri Harbans Singh, Ghulla
- XIII Pandit Prem Valiabh (tabla)**
- 1 Shri Surjit Singh Mattu, U K
- XIV Shri Rajan-Sajan Misra Bandhu (vocal)**
- 1 Shri Mohan Singh, Bhausa Sahib
  - 2 Shri Sukhdev Singh, Bhausa Sahib
  - 3 Shri Sawinderpal Singh, Jalandhar
  - 4 Bibi Kanwaljit Kaur Sweety, Delhi
  - 5 Shri Gurmat Singh, Khapar Kheri
  - 6 Shri Mayya Singh, Bangkok, Thailand
- XV Pandit Hanuman Prasad Misra (sarang)**
- 1 Shri Surjit Singh, Delhi
  - 2 Shri Harinderpal Singh Rayat, U K
- XVI Ustad Imrat Khan (sitar)**
- 1 Shri Sunder Singh Shandri, Bhausa Sahib
  - 2 Shri Gurmukh Singh, Bhausa Sahib
  - 3 Shri Arvik Singh, Bhausa Sahib
  - 4 Shri Tejinder Singh Rina, Canada
  5. Shri Charan Singh, Jammu

**XVII Shri K.L. Pandit (vocal)**

1. Bini Sarbjit Kaur, Delhi

**XVIII Pandit Gopal Krishan (veena)**

1. Shri Baljit Singh, Khapar Khen
2. Shri Sant Singh, Mehal Nagar, Sirsa

**XIX Shri Ram Ji Misra (tabla)**

1. Shri Harpreet Singh Sonu, Gwalior

**XX Professor Yash Pal, Chandigarh (vocal)**

1. Shri Ashwinder, Ludhiana
2. Bibi Shivrangana Kaur, Ludhiana
3. Bibi Jagdeep Kaur Dipi, Jammu



**H.H. SHRI SATGURU PARTAP SINGH MAHARAJ**

We also like to mention here the names of some other Ustads who taught students who later went on to learn from famous maestros

The famous pakhawaj-player Ustad Nihal Singh, who was a resident pakhawaj and tabla teacher in Bhaura Sahib, worked with great dedication. He was the first teacher of Sukhwinder Singh Pinks. Shri Mohender Singh thumri-vocalist has been giving lessons in vocal music to children in Bhaura Sahib, Mandi, Delhi and other places. The contribution of Ustad Harbhajan Singh deserves great admiration. At present, he is teaching vocal music in Bhaura Sahib. The late Shri Avtar Singh was a master tabla player, and he greatly assisted Satguru Ji in teaching tabla and imparting a knowledge of music to children. Pandit Rama Kant has taught tabla to a number of students in Jalandhar and Bhaura Sahib. Professor Kirpal Singh teaches vocal music in Jalandhar. Shri Naninder Kumar Nanala of Patiala is teaching sitar.

As a result of Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji's great dedication to music, a great musical institution called Namdhari Kala Kendra in Bhaura Sahib came into existence in April 1993. The members of the governing body of this school are:

Ustad Harbhajan Singh (sitar, vocal), Shri Virender Kumar of Jalandhar (sitar), Bibi Naninder Kaur of Nairobi (vocal), Shri Harjinderpal Singh (sarangi), Shri Surjit Singh of Delhi (sarangi), Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Sukhdev Singh of Bhaura Sahib (vocal), Shri Rajesh Kumar Malviya of Jabbal Pur (tabla) and Shri Sukhdev Singh of Jalandhar (tabla). At present, these artists are also teaching 40 boys and 20 girls in this school.

The Satguru Partap Singh Music Festival in London, inspired by Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji's boundless benevolence and organised by the Sikh Heritage Society, is dedicated to the memory of Bhaur Sahib Bhaur Harman Singh of Chawinda and Ustad Udho Khan Rampuri, who are not physically present among us now but whose dedication and service to the cause of music in Bhaura Sahib will go on inspiring generations of musicians for ever.



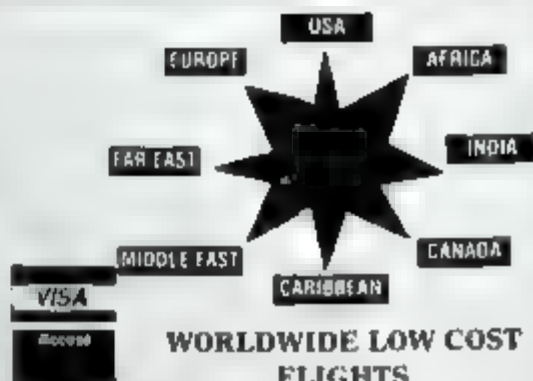
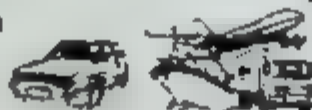
*With Best Wishes & Compliments From Jaspal Singh Jeeta  
On Sbrt Satguru Partap Singh Sangeet Samelon &  
On His Holiness Sbrt Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee's Reception*

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Presentation of Indian Overseas Congress Republic Day Award. Dr Arun Misra (Left) Regional Director of Air India receiving the award from Mr Balwant Kapoor, President, Indian Overseas Congress At the centre is the Mayor of Hounslow and Mr L D'Souza of Air India is on the extreme right. Mr R. S Chana President Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society is on the extreme left



President of Namdhari Sangat (U.K) Mr R. S Chana discussing some points with right honourable Mr Micheal Howard M P Home Secretary. H E. High Commissioner Of India Dr. L. M. Singhvi





# NAMDHARI SIKH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Chief Patron His Holiness Sat Guru Jagjit Singh Ji  
(Spiritual Head of Sikhs)

96 Upton Lane  
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LONDON, E7 9LW

Telephone No: 0181 220 3498  
Mobile: 0956 343534



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ਘਰੇ ਚੰਨ ਮੱਠ ਜੋਨ ਤੀਰਥਾ ਦਾ ਤਰ ਪਾਏ  
ਬੰਦਾ ਤੇ ਗੰਢਕਾ ਦਿਹਾ ਸੀਤਾ ਦੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ ਤੇ

ਜੰਗ ਤਰਿਸ਼ਾ ਪਰਾ ਦਿਹਾ ਤਾ 'ਤੇ ਜਾਏ  
ਜੰਗਰਾ ਰੁਝਾਨੀ ਗੇੜਾ ਤੇਰੀ ਕੁਸ਼ਿਮਾਦ ਤੇ  
ਧੰਨ, ਧੰਨ, ਧੰਨ, ਧੰਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਜਗਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ  
ਤਿਹਾ ਹੀ ਧੰਨ 'ਤੇ ਜਾਏ ਧੰਨ ਮਾਖਈ ਜੁਧਾਨ ਤੇ

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੈਤੁ

( MR S.S. JANDU )  
GEN. SEC.

## NAMDHARI SANGAT U.K.



*Congratulations & Best Wishes From:*



**NAMDHARI SANGAT U.S.A ON THE  
WORTHY RECEPTION OF HIS HOLINESS SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE!**

Since Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh succeeded Shri Satguru Partap Singh Jee, he has stressed for more simplification and less cost effective Sikh Marriage Ceremony and main principle of Nam Simran.



His Holiness made Namdhari Sikhs strict to follow the original Sikh Religious tenets in and outside India, that in their thousands and millions they have become teetotalers and vegetarians. Many of them work in public and private sector dressed in complete Gursikhee dress even in the Western countries.

His Holiness's contribution to the people of rural areas is note worthy. He has established old people's houses, boys and girls schools and colleges in remote areas of the Punjab and Haryana. He has made lengthy roads, provided electric power and canal water to the deserts of Haryana and Rajasthan without the aid of the state exchequer. Indian classical music is His main devotion, His Holiness plays a Dhruba keeping Sikh Guru's traditions and has trained at His expenses many youngsters at different centres, who have become reknowned artists and famous all over the world.

We humbly pray to His Holiness please kindly visit these western countries as soon as early gaps so we can also enjoy your gracious blessings. At the end we offer al. the best wishes and whole heartedly pray to His Holiness for all the success to the functions organised by NAMDHARI SIKH HERITAGE SOCIETY

With Best Regards, Humble Servant  
**TRELOCHAN SINGH BIMRA**  
NAMDHARI SANGAT U.S.A.

Mr S.S. Jeet showing to Rt. Hon. Mr Tony Banks MP Namdhari Heritage Exhibition and Mr Banks looking at his picture with His Holiness Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee



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REF : JSB/RSS  
DATE : 16.03.96

The President  
Mr R S Chana  
Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society  
96 Upton Lane  
London E7



Dear Mr Chana,

I am delighted with the news that Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji is visiting UK in March/April 1996. I welcome His Holiness to UK, particularly to Southall, on behalf of Ramgarhia Sabha's president Mr M S Sahans, Trustees chairman Mr M S Rayet and wish you a highly successful tour.

Your visit provides an opportunity to promote the local classical music talent and encourage the vegetarian societies for which His Holiness has worked tirelessly.

At the time of deteriorating moral values and mutual understanding amongst individuals and institutions this visit will no doubt act as a catalyst.

Looking forward to meeting His Holiness.

Yours sincerely,

J S Bhambra  
Gen. Secretary  
Coordinator Ramgarhia Council UK.

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Tel: 01753 81127

The President  
NAMDHARI SIKH HERITAGE SOCIETY



18.03.96

Dear President

I am delighted and congratulate you on arranging reception at the Hilton Hotel London on 23rd March 1996, in honour of His Holiness Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji.

His Holiness first visited the U.K. on 31st August 1967 and periodically thereafter. These visits have proved invaluable and have greatly helped members of the Asian communities in retaining their cultural identity, heritage and associated values of life in this country. Additionally, the emphasis on peace, co-operation and co-existence during these visits have and continue to strengthen bonds of friendship between India and Great Britain.

On behalf of Thames Valley Overseas Indian Congress I greet His Holiness on His forthcoming visit to the U.K.



K.S. BHAMRA

*President*



## "THE UNIQUE SATGURU" "HIS HOLINESS SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JEE"

SURJIT SINGH JEET  
LONDON

Once in Japan Shri Satguru Jee was attending a conference of W C R P (WORLD CONGRESS OF RELIGIONS & PEACE) He was asked a question by some university students. Which is the universal religion? His Holiness replied in Holy Gurbani:

"TELL THE TRUTH ON SOLEMN AFFIRMATION AND UTTER NOT FALSEHOOD.  
THE DISCIPLE OUGHT TO TRAVEL BY THE ROUTE WHICH THE GURU PIONTS OUT"  
(RAGASA BABAFARID IN ADI GRANTH p 488)

Shri Guru Nanak Dev Jee has explained in Jap Ji -

AS IN THE BEGINNING,  
THE TRUTH THROUGHOUT THE AGES,  
EVER EXISTENT AS TRUTH  
EVEN NOW IMMANENT & TRUTH  
FOREVER MORE HE SHALL BE TRUTH ETERNA



That truth wherever no lie, the knowledge where no ignorance and a light where you can't see any darkness. It is a universal truth, where a Guru there is a disciple SIKH and where is a SIKH there is a Guru, who enlighten the darkness. In the career of the disciple, the personality of the Guru is all along operative, commanding his whole being and shaping his life to its divine issues. Without such Guru there would be no direction in the moral forces of society and in spite of a thousand kinds of knowledge, "there would be, still be utter darkness." So what the Guru does for the Sikhs as individuals, Guru strengthens their character and increases their power a thousandfold by filling their personalities with his own. In order to increase this power immensely more, the Guru made another arrangement. He organized them into Sanat holy assemblies and put His Holy spirit again into them. This led to a very remarkable existence development in the institution of Guruship and no description of living Guru will be complete without an account of this development. The Sikh discipline idea of religion Sikh RELigion is not a 'ism' or 'philosophy', the Sikh religion is something more practical, scientific than being merely mystic ideas and it is a 'God's wish or will' and God himself establish it 'I appoint you as my son'. (Shri Guru Gohind Singh in Dasam Guru Granth) The word Namdhari Sikhs (Sant Khalsa) means, "One who has the Nam of God: with the Name of God who has openness with God". It consists of Nam and Sewa. To practise Nam means to practise the presence of God, by keeping Him ever in our minds by repetition of Nam or singing His praises or dwelling on His excellence. This is to be done not only in solitude and alone, but also in public where worship on the Name is made more impressively being organized the form of congregational recitation and singing, Gurbani. At Sri Bhairu Sahib under the spiritual guidance of His Holiness people doing Nam.-

-SIMRAN (MEDITATION) according to the Sikh tenets:-

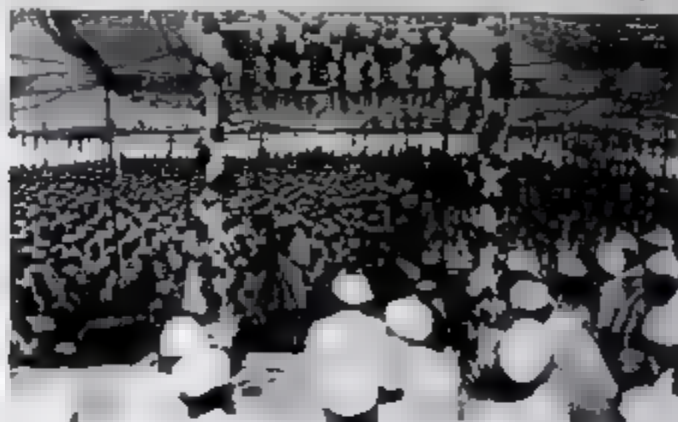
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HOW CAN IT BE REACHED?  
 NAM WORKS EVERY WHERE AND PERMEATES SPACE  
 THE PERFECT GURU AWAKENS YOUR HEARTS TO THE VISION OF NAM.

BY THE GRACE OF GOD ONE ENCOUNTER ENLIGHTENMENT  
 (Guru Ram Das in Sri Adi Granth)



Discipline is required to cultivate Nam as a power of soul and a realization of the Divine, and it involves (Nam Simran) meditation upon the Divine Name. Children are being taught to respect the Name at a very early age and Sikhs of all ages doing Nam Simran (Deep Meditation for at least 8 hrs daily early in the morning and during the daytime). Shri Satguru Jee gets up very early in the morning and takes a bath with only natural water and meditates on the Nam of God till daybreak then reads the Gurbani and daily listens to ASA-DI WAR but before the dawn with path of Chandi do Var. In the day time Shri Satguru Jee goes through the correspondence, and take a round of OLD PEOPLE'S HOME and animal farms etc. Guru Jee's work is very heavy and varies involving requests from all countries of the world, and tours of the places, where people including His followers wait most eagerly to have a Holy glimpse (Darshan).

World and universal peace is the chief aim of His Holiness, owing to his peaceful activities. It is His sentiment that nobody be killed and molested by anyone, all creatures of the same One God. If God is one then religion is also One, but in this age there are not many Holy leaders who love every creature, believing in the axiom that all creatures are created by the same God. Only one of the few is the supreme spiritus, Head of the Namdhar Sikhs. And love for humanity and world peace are the achievements of the worship of God among the Namdhar Sikhs. To help the weak, old and sick. And not to injure anyone by thought word or deed, respect the elders and all (scriptures) Holy books. Shri Satguru Jee wishes all the religious persons to love each other whole heartedly and persons from the various religions should terminate the profanation or the loathsome criticisms, in this way we can help to establish the peace on earth in the Name of God.



The highest purpose of life is to worship God as well as love and respect to the God's world under the guidance of the Sikh Gurus. High character, following the Rehat Maryada of the true Sikh, simple living and purity of thought and deeds which is essential to raise the moral level of society. A Namdhar Sikh must be a non-smoker, teetotaler and strict vegetarian and should be against any sort of killing for food or pleasure.

The Namdhar Sikhs have been playing a very positive role in India's freedom struggle and now they are playing active roles in the development. After annexation of the Shri Satguru Ram Singh Jee organized a network with His own government: the postal, education, judicial and panchayat social services system. Shri Satguru Ram Singh was deported and His Sikhs were blown up by cannons by the colonial government.

After Shri Satguru Ram Singh Jee the torch of freedom struggle and social justice were illuminated and carried by His successors: Shri Satguru Har Singh, Shri Satguru Partap Singh Jee and the present Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee.

carry on fighting for human rights. And now under the spiritual and Holy umbrella of Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee Namdhari Sikhs are spread all over India and abroad, contributing immensely in the fields of industries, agriculture, education, music and sports. His Holiness has kind affection for the down-trodden and weak sections in society. He has always been taking keen interest in the upliftment and extending constructive and positive helping hand to the needy.

With the instructions from His Holiness a project has been taken up by the Namdharis of the area to provide Shelter to hundreds of families of OORGAHALLY KARNATKA, INDIA, belonging to weak sections. And that project by the name of DR. B. R. Ambedkar colony has sprung up successfully. Another project at present is sponsored by M/S Namdhari Seeds, more than 100 dwelling units are being constructed in 10 acre area with all basic amenities. Namdhari Seeds have already spent millions of rupees since 1974 to develop a modern farms converted into technology, involved into a vast programme of research and development vegetable and fruit seeds. Also in Punjab and Haryana His Holiness's contribution to the people of rural area is note-worthy. He has made lengthy roads without the aid of the state exchequer electric supply to the remote areas are His blessings, to the rural India.

Music is the soul of Sikhs religious tenets. His Holiness recieved His training in music at home. His father Shri Satguru Partap Singh Jee was a real connoisseur of Indian Classical Music, had mastery over this art and He had HIS SON fully trained by established top musicians. Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee has had special training in Dhrupad and Dhamar and equally adept at playing DILRUBA. He has patronised not only Namdhari youths by granting them stipends from His own exchequer to get training in music but other as well, whoever approached Him is treated with benevolence. So Indian classical music is His hobby. He Himself keeps the tradition of the Sikh Gurus, plays on the DILRUBA and has trained at His expenses many youngsters at many different centres who have become renowned artists, and He can be proud of them today. In academic area and promotion of Punjabi language and literature His Holiness played a very marvellous great part in helping writers or artists. His doors are always open, so many annual conferences and medical treatments of the writers goes to His credit.

In sports for the first time SIKH HISTORY players playing the games nationally and internationally are in the GURUSIKHEE DRESS or Punjabi dress within the code and conduct of international sports organisations.

Wherever the Namdhar Sikhs are present His Holiness has been pushing all the members to become one among the locals though live within their own (Gusikhee jeevan) Sikh way of life and learn local language and help the poorest of the poor in the local area. To spread the message of Sikh (disciples) brotherhood.

With One God and oneness with humanity, in oneness with Guru. Within few decades Shri Satguru Jee has made pilgrimage visits in Africa, Europe, North America, Canada, Australia, South-east Asia and United Kingdom to spread the mission of the SIKH GURUS.

May His Holiness open His gracious door's for world peace and help us in our mission. At last and not the least I beg His disciples to follow His Holiness Shri Satguru Jee's way of life with His kind gracious blessings.

MAY KNOWLEDGE OF GOD BE YOUR FOOD,  
MAY MERCY SUSTAIN YOUR STORE,  
AND HEED THE DIVINE MUSIC,  
WHICH HEATS EVERY HEART



For this article space donated by Sant Satnam Singh Reehal S/o late Sant Pritam Singh Reehal  
ex President Namdhari Sangat (UK).

# Indian Overseas Congress (London) UK

Balwant Kapoor, President  
Tel: 0181-572 7798  
Fax: 0181-566 1232

D L Kalhan, Gen Secretary  
Tel: 0181-566 5695  
Fax: 0181-566 1232

*Welcome Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee Maharaj*



Satguru Shri Pratap Singh Jee Maharaj with Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, first Prime Minister of India at Jhansi Nagar near Sirsa in 1952  
in the middle is of them is Shri Balwant Kapoor, at present President Indian Overseas Congress (London) UK

One cannot simply imagine the immense happiness I got when Mr Rajendra Chana told me that Sat Guru Jagjit Singh Jee is coming to pay visit, to London. I have a long standing relationship with the family of Sat Guru jee. In the 'Quit India Movement' of 1942, I too was put in the old central jail at Multan where almost all, the leaders of the movement from Punjab and Delhi were lodged. At that time Sant Mangal Singh Jee Namdhari was put in the same jail. People used to call him 'ARSHI FARISHTA' (god's Angel), out of love and regard. At that time I was informed that Sant jee was arrested in the 'Quit India Movement'. The closer I got to Sant Jee I was simply amazed to feel and realise that he was, in fact, an ARSHI FARISHTA. Sant Jee used to deliver us lectures on the Namdhari teachings for one hour every day and made us aware of many sacrifices for the struggle of independence made by the Kooka people. Since then my desire to touch the feet of Guru Pratap Singh Jee and seek his blessings had been increasing with the passage of time.

In the year 1947 when the country was declared independent I was appointed political secretary to the Health Minister Rakumari Amrit Kaur. The minister once gave me a hand written letter to be delivered to Shri Sat Guru Jee personally. When Guru Jee received the letter he told me that whatever mission I have come for has been completed. Then he took to Mandi and other places. Our association has begun and whenever Sat Guru come to Delhi I used to meet him. His blessings were always with me and I greatly cherish those.

Keeping that relationship in mind I on behalf of the Indian Overseas congress (London) UK welcome Shri Sat Guru Jagjit Singh Jee Maharaj to the UK.



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ON SHRI SATGURU PARTAP SINGH JEE



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## AN APOSTLE OF HUMANITY AND MUSIC: SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JI

The very thought of the most revered Shri 108 Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji, who became seventy-five on 20th November 1995, fills your mind with an intense spiritual ecstasy which has always been a distinguishing trait of his being. A multi-faceted and multi-talented personality, he is the supreme head of the Namdhari community, but his field of activity is the whole world. Even two days spent in his service are enough to make you realise that you are in the presence of someone who belongs to the entire humanity.

The day of this holder of the highest title "Satguru" in the tradition set up by Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji starts at 1 a.m. with fulfilling natural functions, light exercise and bath. Then he listens to devotional music, reads holy scriptures and meditates until 5 a.m. in summer and until 6.30 a.m. in winter. Now in Shri Bhauni Sahib, the holiest among the holy places, all types of people, even little children and those of an advanced age, spend up to 8 hours daily in reciting God's Name. This line from the Gurbani can be seen in operation:

‘ਅਪੁ ਜਪੈ ਅਵਰੁ ਤਮ ਜਪੈ॥’

“Reciting God's Name oneself and making others recite it.”

Whoever comes in contact with this supreme spiritual personality gets inspired with the Name and holy scriptures. Qualities like truth, purity, service, sacrifice, non-attachment, benevolence and modesty radiate from his personality. His aim in life is to follow the path of the Dharam (virtue) and guide other along this path.

As someone who belongs to the entire humanity, he is one of the leaders of many organisations operating world-wide, such as World Vegetarian Movement, World Peace Movement and many other organisations and has been providing them guidance and inspiration.

Though a leading personality in the Sikh community, he has also been in close contact with other religious communities such as Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Christians, Muslims and many others. But in spite of all this, he continues providing dynamic leadership to his followers, always looking further and further into the future.

The area of Jivan Nagar in Sarza district has always been a centre of his activities. With the co-operation of the villagers there, he got the earthwork done for a 26 kilometre stretch of roads and got stones for the roadwork. Then he put pressure on the government of Haryana state to turn them into pukka roads. He inspired the people of the area to start horticulture, especially vineyards. Thus he breathed life into the sand dunes. By inspiring the people of this economically backward area to create orange and tangerine gardens themselves, rather than rely upon the snail-paced government plans, he created an enviable green belt in this arid stretch of land. Now the state of Haryana and even India as a whole can take legitimate pride in this area. In breeding high quality cattle, this area is now second to none. Physical betterment of human beings as well is also one of his ideals. The place which the Namdhari hockey team has earned for itself in the field of sports is solely due to the money he spent and the efforts he made to create and inspire it. Playing while bearing the Sikh symbols is the distinguishing trait of this team. He organised Sikh youth into All India Sikh Educational Jatha (of men and women) to provide them the right direction in life. As a result of this, thousands of young people in our society have achieved high status in life and are leading healthy lives free from evil company and intoxicants.

Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji is a realisation of the dreams of his father Satguru Partap Singh Ji and mother Mata Bhupinder Kaur Ji. He faces life as it is, with all its good and evil, and then endeavours to make it better - embroidering it with his gold and silver thread of grace and beauty. Every moment of his life is valuable. He takes quick decisions - either "yes" or "no". In spite of facing countless difficult and complex responsibilities, he retains an extraordinarily calm simplicity in his life, and nobody has ever witnessed any tension in him.

Shri Bhami Sahib, which was the centre for India's freedom struggle before the 1857 uprising, is his place of residence. It is now the leading centre for the propagation of the Sikh way of life based on Gurbani. This was originally a place of social deprivation and backwardness created by the foreign government. But Satguru Ji has rejuvenated it. By getting the status of a holy place for it, he turned it into a hermitage of simplicity and grace. You can always witness here the drama of uplifting the downtrodden. Everybody gets free food all the time, engages in reciting God's name and is immersed in devotional music in praise of the Divine. The building of the Simratu temple has no equal in the Third World and the purity and naturalness of the holy pool are also matchless.

There is a shelter for the old people abandoned by their families, where young people provide all sorts of service and care to the people with advanced years. Satguru Ji himself visits the place once or twice a day to see if the aged are well looked after.

Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji's efforts to provide care to the sick and restore a healthy life to them, especially to those abandoned by their families and the society, make our head bow before him in reverence. He is spending from 1.5 to 2 million rupees each year for this. As soon as sick or disabled people approach him, they are sent to appropriate hospitals where they regain health under the care and supervision of specialist doctors. But the spectacle of suffering never depresses him and never makes him tense. The reason for this is that his soul nourishes on music - Raga (melody) and Nada (the Sound Divine). Satguru Ji inherited music. He not only devotedly guards his heritage, he actively re-creates it as well. He is a heroic figure ("nayak") in the true sense in the field of music. He has not only inherited the great tradition of Gurbani Sangeet (the Sikh devotional music), but also has developed a deep and insightful understanding of the glorious heritage of the classical music of India. Not only this, he himself has learnt it and contributed to it.

According to scholars, "sangeet" is a harmonious combination of melody, rhythm and dance, and the whole universe appears to be ceaseless "sangeet". The movements and sounds of the sun, the moon, the stars, rivers, forests, mountains, oceans, all constitute a celestial melody, rhythm and dance before the Supreme Being. Human beings are making use of this divine heritage not only for their amusement but also as a means towards getting in tune with the Infinite.

The Sikh gurus realised this and made music an integral part of their life. They set all their devotional writings to music and held two daily recitals of devotional music. Continuing this tradition, Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji has immersed himself in music. Whenever he has even the slightest free time, he asks for concerts and musical festivals to be organised. Even the top musical geniuses of India feel grateful if they are invited to participate in these concerts and festivals. Pandit Ram Narayan (sarangi), Pandit Shiv Kumar (santoor), Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia (flute), Ustad Vilayat Khan (sitar), Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (sarod), Pandit Samta Prasad, Pandit Kishan Maharaj (tabla), Ustad Salamat Ali, Singh Bandhu, Misra Bandhu and many great musicians gratefully accept Satguru Ji's invitation.

Satguru Ji's relations with the artists go far beyond this. He often also helps them financially to pay for their health care, buying houses and solve other problems.

In order to have the best traits of each great musician in his repertoire, Satguru Ji sends Namdhari young people to learn from them. Now these young musicians are turning his

dream into a reality. Not only this, he himself trained many young people and has taught them all the delicate intricacies of melody, rhythm and tempo in a way which leaves even the greatest musicians agape with amazement.

Ever since he inherited the mantle of Guruship from his Satguru father on 5th August 1959, he has been grappling with many social and worldly problems, but has also been wholeheartedly devoting time to music. When in his music he combines rhythmic cycles of  $10\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $11\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $12\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $13\frac{1}{4}$  beats, then adds quarters and later moves on to thirds, two thirds and three thirds, the dexterity of his computer-like mind comes into play. Over the past few years, he got a number of musical concerts arranged in Delhi in the memory of his Satguru father. His follower Sant Harbajan Singh, a wealthy contractor, paid for musical festivals in Lucknow, Bombay and Aurangabad where up to 7 or 8 thousand people enjoyed music absolutely free. Top singers and instrumentalists from all over the country displayed their art there and received joy and blessings. Without their asking, Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji paid them a fee which was the double of what they normally got. A fortnight long concert by musicians to celebrate his 75th birthday is a testimony to his and their great shared love for music.

To inculcate music in the Namdhari community, he set up music schools in Mandi, Delhi, Jammu, Jalandhar and Ludhiana. Above all, he set up the Namdhari Kala Kendra in Bhauri Sahib to give a definite direction to music in the society and to train dozens of artists. Guru Nanak Dev Ji said "ਸੋਧ ਭੰਡਾ ਰਾਗ ਨਿਰਮਲਾਤਾ ਪਰਿਵੇ ਸੋਧ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ" ("Music is God's food and truth His attire"). We are now witnessing the realization of this in Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji. We wish Satguru Ji to go on saving the "burning world" for ages to come.

With such feelings, the 15th Satguru Partap Singh Sangeet Sammelan is being organised in London.

"GURUDEV"



In the Holy presence of H.H. Shri Satguru Jee Sardar Harbajan Singh Aurangabad (India). One of the greatest classical music admirer who has credit of countless music festivals.

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And We Welcome to H.H. Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee***



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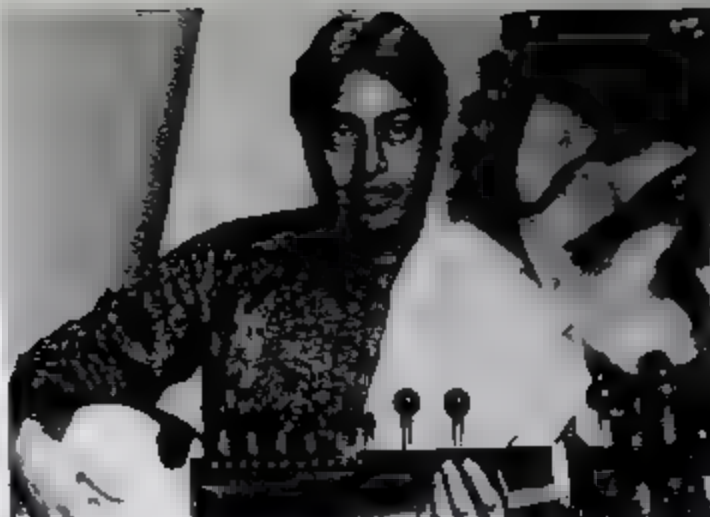
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MESSAGE FROM

JSTAD AMJAD ALI KHAN



His Holiness Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj has always been a source of great inspiration to many classical musicians of India.

I was highly honoured and privileged when he visited my humble abode in the year 1967. Seeing his involvement and knowledge in the field of Indian Classical Music I played all night on that occasion. One of the raags in my repertoire that evening which had major prominence was Raag Des. I came to know later that it was his favourite raag. This brought us very close to each other and he honoured me by placing two of his young followers, Gurdev Singh and Harbhajan Singh under my tutelage to teach them Sarod and Sitar playing. By the grace of god Gurdev Singh has established himself as a Sarod player in India and abroad whereas Harbhajan Singh has dedicated himself to serve at the Ashram of Satguruji.

After a few years His Holiness recommended another young tabla player, Sukhwinder Singh Namdhari whom I found highly talented and dedicated. I feel pleased to have introduced Sukhwinder all over India and abroad. He has competently accompanied me on tabla in many a concert all over the world.

It was at my suggestion that Satguruji had accepted to be present at the Sangeet Sammelans organised, under his patronage, in honour of his father, Satguru Partap Singh Ji Maharaj, a great musician, from whom he had himself inherited and learnt to play and love music. He is the innovator of the fourteen and a quarter beat meter in music which I have had the honour of playing before him at the Bombay and Calcutta festivals.

On the seventy fifth birth year of His Holiness Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj I, along with my family pray to God Almighty to grant him a healthy and peaceful long life so that we remain blessed too under his benign being.

He respects the art and the artist alike.

*Amjad Ali Khan*

*Compliments & Best Wishes To  
Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society For  
Their Dinner at Hilton London*

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# Compliments & Best Wishes To Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society



Words fail us when we speak about His Most Exalted Holiness Sadguru Jagjit Singh Ji. His intense love for and wholehearted devotion to every aspect of music - deep thought, melody and rhythm - need no testimony, and this art spontaneously permeates his whole life. His love for art and artists touches our hearts. He can explain with extreme simplicity his deep and discerning knowledge of many rhythmic cycles and rhythmic beats. He can also play many ragas in his own unique style. All the artists have deep reverence for him. We artists attain immense satisfaction by touching the holy feet of such a great guru. I pray to God for his long life so that he may continue showering his blessings upon us!

**With Best Wishes**

*from*



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TO: Shri Guru Dev Singh  
FROM: Rotterdams Conservatorium/Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia

Rotterdam, 15th March 1996.

I have never known a spiritual guru such as "Satguru" who is so knowledgeable in the Indian classical musical fields. It was a delight to witness him playing and teaching his students with such a vast knowledge, specially his grasp of rare and original ragas as well as rare talas I found very inspiring.

His disciples are very fortunate to have his guidance with so much devotion and love. It is an honour for me to be associated with His Holiness "Satguru".

I wish him a long life and great success.

Hariprasad Chaurasia



*With Best Wishes  
To Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society*

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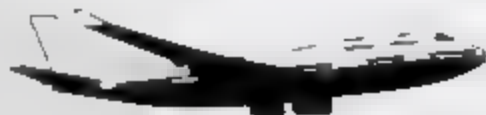
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**Shivkumar Sharma**

**ATTENTION:- Gurdev Singh**

**Fax From:- Shiv Kumar Sharma**

Indian classical music and Spiritualism are two sides of the same coin. Indian Saints and Sages have used music as a medium of meditation. Revered Satguru ji is the brightest and most appropriate example of an ideal combination of a great spiritual guru and not only a great lover of music but having deep knowledge of this art. He has amazing knowledge of hundreds of traditional and rare compositions in various Rags and Taals. Those compositions should be recorded and preserved.

Revered Satguru ji has been providing patronage to many of the leading musicians of India. He has been instrumental in sending selected young musicians of Namdhari sect to great master of Indian classical music to be trained in the traditional guru Shri Shaya Shishya (Guru-Disciple tradition).

I have the great privilege of having known revered Satguru ji so closely for more than thirty years. Respected Satguru ji sent two disciples-Harjindal Pal Singh (India) and Kiran Pal Singh (England) to have systematic training of Santoor from me. I am very happy to say that with the blessings of His Holiness Satguru both Harjindar and Kiranpal are one of my best disciples today..

Compliments and best wishes on  
Shri Satguru Partap Singh Sangeet Samelan

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Dear Surjit Ji

*Sat Siri Akal!*

Chaman Lal Chaman  
Ethnic Arts Advisor  
London Borough of Hounslow  
Civic Centre, Lampton Road  
Hounslow, Middx., TW3 4DN

Many thanks for kindly inviting me to attend Sat Guru Pratap Singh Sangeet Sammelan - music festival being organised by Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society to coincide with the current visit to Britain of HIS HOLINESS SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JI MAHARAJ. Prior to your kind invitation, Gurdev Singh had given me details of the festival while discussing his forthcoming concert of music, Bows And Strings at Paul Robeson Theatre, Hounslow scheduled for 31 May 1996, featuring Gurdev himself and tabla wizard Sukhvinder Singh Namdhari (Pinky) and number of students being trained by Gurdev's Naad International.

Gurdev also told me that this is the 15th International festival - first outside India - being organised in the sacred memory of Satguru Pratap Singh Ji. Previous festivals were held in various major cities of India, featuring world famous musical giants of India.

It is heartening to note that like his worthy father, Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji has kept alive the ancient musical tradition of India through divine Kirtan and promotion of Dhrupad style of music with utmost dedication. His Holiness himself is a keen exponent of Dhrupad and plays Dhruba with a divine touch. Both Satguru Pratap Singh Ji and Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji have been great patrons and promoters of classical music, which is an integral part of the Sikh musical tradition. The holy Granth, as you know, is rendered to classical compositions of music.

Satguru Pratap Singh Ji set up the first Namdhari School of Music at Bhemi Sahib where students have been receiving extensive training from great masters.

Even in Britain, there are number of world class Namdhari musicians like Gurdev Singh (Sarod Dhruba) Kiran Pal Singh (Santoor) Sukhvinder Singh Pinky (Tabla) and Dharambir Singh, who teaches music at the Leeds University.

I would like to congratulate Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society for holding this festival in London, thus providing a unique opportunity to witness performances by the world famous masters like Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Shahid Parvez, Pt. Birju Maharaj, and many others.

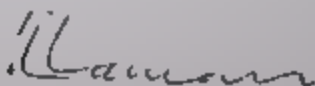
I hope that performing arts will continue to receive encouragement and blessings of His Holiness Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji for many years to come.

May we all live to experience Brahm Naad, divine note of music in our lives.

Best Wishes for the success of the festival.

Kindest Regards

Yours sincerely



Chaman Lal Chaman  
Ethnic Arts Adviser



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## "TRADITIONAL MUSIC IS A LADDER UNTO GOD"

—Satguru Jagjit Singhji Maharaj—

By Mohan Nadkarni

"Traditional music is a ladder unto "God" so declaims Satguru Jagjit Singh ji Maharaj, the present head of the Namdhan Sikhs, who turns 75 this year. He is the direct spiritual descent of the centuries-old sect.

Not much is known , except in parts of North India, about the sect or the contribution of its followers to the propagation of Hindustani basic. Social history records that the Namdhans were involved with music from the time of the first guru of the Sikhs, Nanak Dev, who was himself not only spiritual personality, but also a blue-blooded musician. The Granth Sahib, is possibly the only religious work where almost all the hymns, known as **shabads**, are set to Hindustani **raga** music. They are regarded as inspired hymns and deeply respected as **Gurbani**.



The post-Guru Nanak period, during the time of Guru Arjun Dev, the chief musicians of the Golden Temple of Amritsar reportedly became lax and egoistic. The guru therefore ordered their dismissal and commanded every member of his congregation to learn traditional raga music. The Namdharis are the inheritors of this tradition.

Until 1947, the Golden Temple was the only sacred place where musicians gave recitals in pure classical ragas. But now the tradition is also found preserved and fostered in the Gurdwara of Bhaini Sahib, the spiritual centre of the Namdhar Sikhs, in Ludhiana district, in Punjab, under the guidance and direction of Satguru Jagjit Singhji Maharaj. Satguru Pratap Singhji Maharaj was the father and guru of Jagjit Singhji. Pratap Singhji was not only a spiritual dignitary, but also a valiant freedom fighter, a noted performing musician, scholar and composer rolled into one. His mastery over the dhrupad dhamar styles of Hindustani music was matched by his command of instrumental and percussion music. He was held in high esteem by musicians, celebrities of his time, and they always come to offer their tributes in melody and rhythm of the spiritual centre.

The opportunity to be in the company of Jagjit Singhji Maharaj came my way, for the first time, in December 1981, during my week-long visit to Aurangabad in South Maharashtra, to attend the mammoth sangeet sammelan organised by him. The second visit to His Holiness was in response to his invitation to meet him at his spiritual centre at Bhaini Sahib in June 1995.

Full 14 years had gone by between these happenings and, in the context of the worsening situation in Punjab for almost a decade, there was no means for me to ascertain the state of affairs at the holy place. All I could know was that satguruji had decided to suspend the musical activity and remain confined to his ashram at Bhaini Sahib waiting, as though, for the return of normalcy in the strife-torn state.

His Holiness said so in so many words when I met him at his ashram during my last visit. He said that peace was restored to Punjab and that he was planning to restart the musical activity by holding periodical **sangeet sammelans** as before.

Meeting Satguruji is always an unforgettable experience. A marvellous personality in immaculately white attire and natural flowing beard, he looks the living symbol of his faith in the guru parampara.



and the Holy Granth or Granth Sahib. Of medium height he is lanky. His expression looks grave, but when he welcomes you with a traditional Namaste, there is a benign smile, the kind of expression that is at once eloquent of humility inspired by an intense desire to serve the community at large.

His Holiness always puts me at ease every time I met him for a conversation at Aurangabad in 1981, and at Bhaini Sahib 14 years later. He gave me complete freedom to ask him any questions and he answered them with a child-like simplicity.

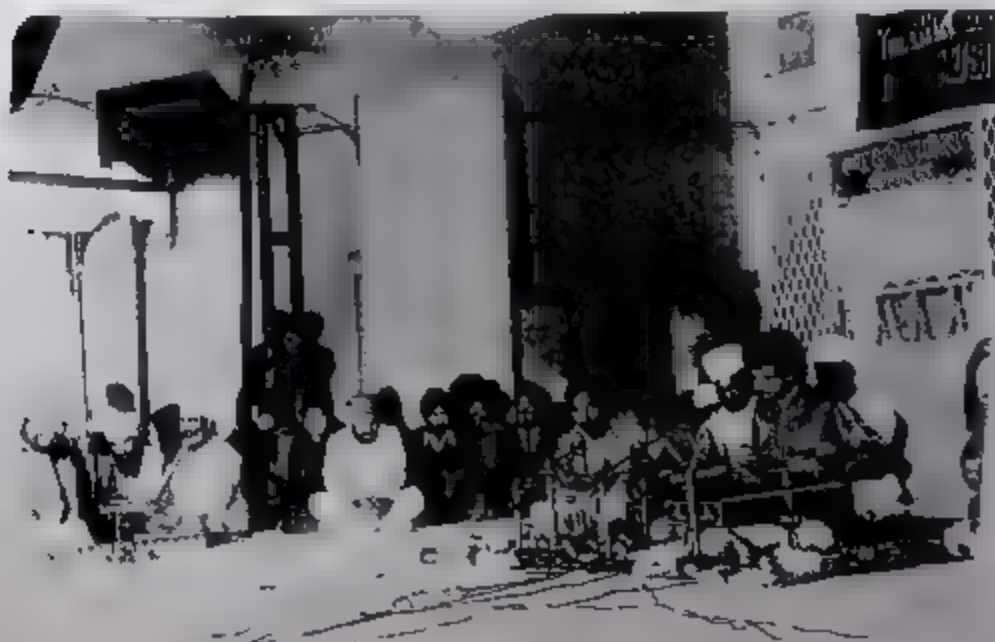
In reply to my preliminary questions, His Holiness first told me that Satguru Ram Singh was the pioneer of the Namdhan movement, which was basically nationalistic in character. Following in the footsteps of the great Ranjit Singh, Ram Singh and his followers challenged the imperial might of the British rulers. Many of them suffered martyrdom, while others underwent incarceration and even deportation. It came as a revelation when His Holiness told me that the entire community observed a total boycott of the Britishers till India became free in 1947.

This background gave me the impression that the Namdhans were a martial community. If it were so, how did it get so deeply involved in music? His Holiness said that the Namdhans were not "martial" in the strict sense of the term, adding, emphatically, "We are second to none in bravery, courage and fortitude, when it comes to fighting for a national cause".

Another revelation came to me when His Holiness said that the Namdhan Sikhs, also known as Kukas, were mostly engaged in an mal husbandry and farming. "though they are many who have excelled in the fields of engineering, science, medicine and the humanities".

As for the Namdhan involvement in music, His Holiness said that the first guru of the Sikhs, Nanak Devji, was a blue-blooded musician. "The Holy Book, the Adi Granth or Granth Sahib, is the only religious book in which all the hymns which we call Gurbani, are set to *raga* music".

During my visit to Bhaini Sahib, I was shown a rare picture of Guru Nanak with Bhai Mardana, sitting by his side, playing the rabab. The morning prayers at the spiritual centre, as also in the numerous Gurdwaras, scattered in far-off hamlets and towns, begin with the *swara-shloka* of the *raga Asa*, while the kirtans at vesper-time are set to *ragas* like *Yaman*.



"We are true followers of Gurbani and our love of music comes from the Holy Granth", said His Holiness. He added that no less than 6 gurus of the **parampara** have inspired them to keep the singing tradition of Gurbani alive.

Is His Holiness' **parampara** a father-son hierarchy? Not necessarily, he pointed out, though as it happened, he succeeded as his father, Satguru Fartap Singhji Maharaj, in 1959

I experienced the intensely spiritual ambience around Bhami Sahib and its precincts. The tiny place has a population of about 2000 and is inhabited by families. Men, women and children, all votaries of the Holy Granth and deeply devoted to Satguruji, are clad in immaculate white. They present the very picture of dignity, humility and contentment. What is frankly intriguing is that the activity connected with His Holiness' mission takes much of his time, as also that of his followers. How come, then, is His Holiness able to manage the stupendous task of propagation of traditional music among the people?

Satguruji says that he owes all he could achieve to his respected father and guru. He said that it was the compelling urge to promote his father's musical mission that made it possible for him to do his "bit" in that direction also. A dedicated band of young Namdharis render him their valuable assistance in organising periodical **sangeet sammelans** in different parts of India. Between 1973 and 1981 seven such marathon **soirees** were held in Delhi, Bombay, Lucknow and Aurangabad. A tentative plan has been drawn up for organising such events after a gap of 14 years.





I have had the pleasure to attend some of these **sammelans**. To me, they represent a landmark in the chequered history of the traditional music of north India, specially because they are being organised at a time when such events elsewhere are mostly held with exorbitant admission rates. Replying to my question on this point, His Holiness said that the aim is to promote and propagate traditional music and bring it to the door-step of the common man. "Free admission is a truly Indian tradition. It is like **prasad** offered in temples, and free music is a spiritual **prasad** to the seeker", said His Holiness.

How, then, does His Holiness manage the heavy financial commitments involved in such mammoth events? Satguruji told me that Namdhari Sikhs number a little over a million. They are all a dedicated lot, and equally involved in the propagation of traditional music. "We have branches of the Namdhari Sangat (as the spiritual mission is familiarly known) in several places in India and abroad, and the response to the Sangat's call the spontaneity of ancient of ardent devotees"

Speaking of other aspects of the musical mission His Holiness said that in his efforts to encourage young talent the Sangat sends selected boys for professional grooming under great contemporary masters. Sensing the musical potential of several precocious youngsters, he has arranged for the training under the tutelage of acknowledged of music mentors. The early batch includes Gurdev Singh, Kiran Pal Singh, Sukhvinder Singh and Avtar Singh, who have had their training from top notch virtuosi like Anjad Ali Khan, Vilayat Khan, Ravi Shankar, Ram Narain, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Kishan Maharaj and several others.

His Holiness made a special mention of work of other senior Namdhari musician-gurus, like Bir Singhji, his younger brother and Harbhajan Singh, in **dhrupad-dhmar** and also percussion music. The Sangat met all expenses in this regard.

His Holiness told me about the Sangats' work in other fields. In the field of social work, it organises mass marriages on a strictly economic basis. The community leads others in the promotion of animal husbandry. But cross breeding is strictly prohibited.

Children are also encouraged to take to sports. While on this subject, Satguruji told me that Dilip Singh, his nephew and son of Bir Singhji, was a recipient of mini-national championship in the All India Nehru Junior Hockey Tournaments







**Connoisseurs from India"**

**In**

**SRI SATGURU PARTAP SINGH JEE SANGEET SAMELANS**



On the food habits of the Namdharis, he pointed out they are strict vegetarians and teetotalers. "They preach what they practice," said His Holiness with a smile.

A rather ticklish question came to my mind during one of our conversations. I had noticed that woman artists were conspicuous by their absence in the musical events. How come? With a giggle, Satguruji told me that the tenets of the **parampara** did not permit participation by woman artists. In other respects the Sammelan is all artists irrespective of cast, religion and discipline.

Like his revered father and guru, Jagjit Singhji Maharaj is not only steeped in all aspects of sangeet shastra but he is also performing vocalist, instrumentalist and percussionist. What is more, he is an erudite teacher and innovator of musical instruments. These shining facets of his personality are best reflected during his teaching sessions. even at this age he shows a surprising stamina in conducting his classes, which comprise of boys and girls from the age of six.

At my request he gave me a demonstration of his own instrumental innovation - he has not cared to christen it - giving utterly enchanting musical effects. I found it to be a tiny contraption looking like a miniature swaramandal and fitted to a bow instrument, dilruba. He played for me short pieces in the ragas **Chandrakauns** and **Madhuvanti**, gently trumming its strings. The brief performance held me in amazement and admiration.



Satguruji is a householder. His wife, daughter, granddaughter comprises his family. Yet he is a recluse in the true sense of the term, and seldom condescends to talk about his family and personal life. Incidentally I had heard it from Satguruji is also a good sportsman, adept in playing games like tennis, badminton and polo and an expert swimmer. He is known to take only a couple of hours sleep till around midnight, and get immersed in meditation till the early hours of the morning.

**Congratulations & Best Wishes To  
Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society On Gracious Visit Of  
His Holiness Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee**

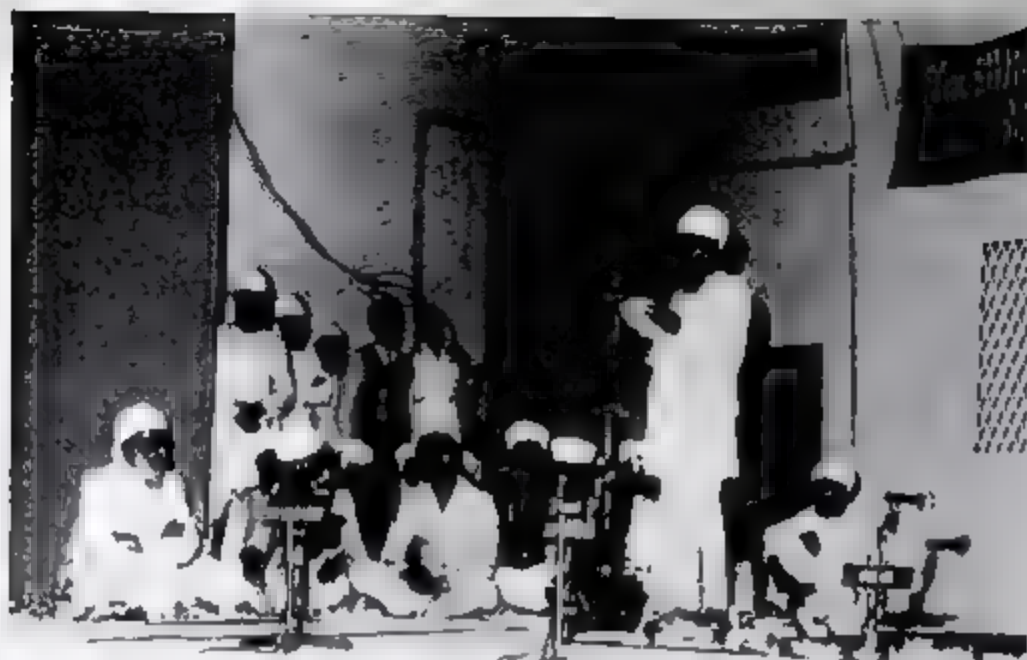
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### BIRJU MAHARAJ

Born in the family of hereditary dancers, Birju Maharaj is the torch bearer of the famous family, Katha-Bindadin Gharana of Lucknow, which has been serving the art of Kathak dance through centuries together.

Not only in India, he is familiarly known in abroad, in nearly all parts of the world. He has extensively toured all over the world i.e. U.S.S.R., U.S.A. Japan, U.A.E. Czechoslovakia, Burma, Ceylon etc. for performances as well as lecture demonstrations.

Besides being a superb dancer, he is also gifted with a number of other qualities which add to his artistic career. He is a wonderful singer having command over, Thumri, Dadra Hol and Ghazal. Moreover he is a superb drummer, Playing nearly all drums with ease and precision.

He has given a new dimension to Kathak, by experimenting this technique in the application of dance-dramas, which has today become a very successful medium for mass propagation. As a choreographer he is the finest in the country today. His bold and intellectual compositions in traditional themes are brilliant, refreshing in concept crisp and entertaining.

He directed composed music and sung playback for two classical Dance sequences in the film. "Shatranj Ke Khilari" directed by Satyajit Ray.

A measure to his genius is the fact that at the young age of 28 years, he received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, also a recipient of countries most prestigious award Padma Bibhushan. He is widely acclaimed not only as a performer but also as an inspiring 'Guru', having successfully trained numerous students in India and abroad.



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**GURDEV SINGH** is one of the world's foremost exponents of the Sarod. He is the leading disciple of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and is now becoming well-known internationally through his performances in the USA, Canada and the UK.

Gurdev Singh was born on 15 January 1948, and was brought up in a remote village in Harayana, North India. He began learning music at the age of seven under Ustad Tara Singh and Piara Singh who taught him Dilruba, a bowed instrument of great antiquity, which Gurdev still plays occasionally. He is also trained in vocal music under Pandit Mahadeo Prasad.

In 1967 Gurdev became a disciple of the world famous Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan in Delhi and was introduced to the Sarod with the Holy patronage of H.H. Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee.

The Sarod is an extremely demanding instrument to handle, partly because it is fretless. It is capable of an extraordinary range of sounds, from haunting sweetness to dazzling speed and power. Gurdev Singh has now spent over twenty years learning to master it. His success can be measured by popularity in India, in both live and radio concerts, and by the increasing international demand for his performances, especially in the UK which he has now visited for five years running.

His UK performances have included the BBC, Midland TV, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Bath and Oxford Universities, the 1984 Liverpool Garden Festival and South Bank. In North America he has played in Vancouver, New York, Los Angeles, Seattle University and at the prestigious Amir Khusro Society in Chicago and last year he also visited Switzerland, Denmark, Domstead festival and other European countries. As well as being a superlative musician Gurdev Singh



who has a way of winning the hearts of his audiences with his warmth and humour. He has a large body of dedicated students here in England, to whom he has given much of his time.

Gurdev Singh has recently released a CD with three instruments SAROD, DILRUBA & TAR SEHNAI, he has also on his credit many LPs recording with Viram Jasani (Sitar) and Ustad Latif Ahmed Khan (Tabla). Available from One World Performing Arts, 59 High Street, Totnes, Devon TO9 5PB.



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## Sukhvinder Singh Namdhari

"A Brilliant Young Tabla Connoisseur from India"



Considered as one of the best of the young tabla players from India, Sukhvinder Singh comes from Ludhiana district, in Punjab. He started his early training in Pakhawaj from the late Ustad Niha. Singh. After receiving a sound foundation in Pakawa, Sukhvinder had a desire to learn Tabla from none other than the world renowned Tabla Samral Pundit Kishan Maharaj of Varanasi (Banaras), a living legend in Tabla playing. This intense urge of learning made him leave his home and childhood behind and proceed to Varanasi and dedicate his next eighteen years in the pursuit of tabla.

Pt Kishan Maharaj, saw the potential and dedications in this young prodigy and gave him meticulous attention and tutelage. Pt. Kishan Maharaj takes pride in mentioning "Sukhvinder" as one of his best disciples who is carrying out the tradition of his "Banaras Baji" (Banaras style of Tabla playing)

Sukhvinder Singh has had a meteoric rise in popularity as an accompanist after several successful concerts with leading artists, such as Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (Sarod), Pt. Hari Prasad Ji (Flute), Ustad Emrat Khan (Sitar), Ustad Fateh Ali Khan (Vocal), Pt. Ram Narayan (Sarangi) and Pt. Jas Raj Ji (Vocal) Sri Gurdev Singh (Sarod) Ustad Sahid Parvez (Sitar) Kudos to Amjad Ali Khan for having taken this prodigy under the wing without giving a thought to other considerations.

## Kiranpal Singh

Leading SANTOOR player



Born in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa, on 13th December 1957 and subsequently educated in England, Kiranpal Singh's first music study was the tabla, which he pursued under the guidance of Shree Ripdham Singh of Panjab Gharana from 1970 to 1977.

His potential as an artiste of the highest calibre was recognised by His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj, spiritual guide and leader of the Namdhari Sikhs, on a visit to the UK, and His Holiness bountifully arranged for Kiranpal to be sent to Bombay to study Santoor in the traditional way under Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma. He completed twelve years of study as an outstanding student, mastering the subtleties and intricacies of the instrument in such a commanding way, that he is now recognised as a leading disciple of Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, and in his own right as the principal Santoor player in Europe.

Kiranpal has settled in England since 1987 and has gained respect and admiration for his various performances in the UK, Europe and beyond, in recitals, festivals and lecture demonstrations. Admired by both audiences and critics, his mastery of the advanced techniques of the instrument, combined with a creative flair and spontaneous imagination, has developed a recognisable individuality in his performances. This, in turn, has led him to be sought after as a co-leader of groundbreaking developments, and cross-cultural projects, whilst continuing to advance the presentation of Indian Classical music to ever widening audiences through his solo work.

Kiranpal has released three compact discs with Multitone Records Ltd, in the UK.

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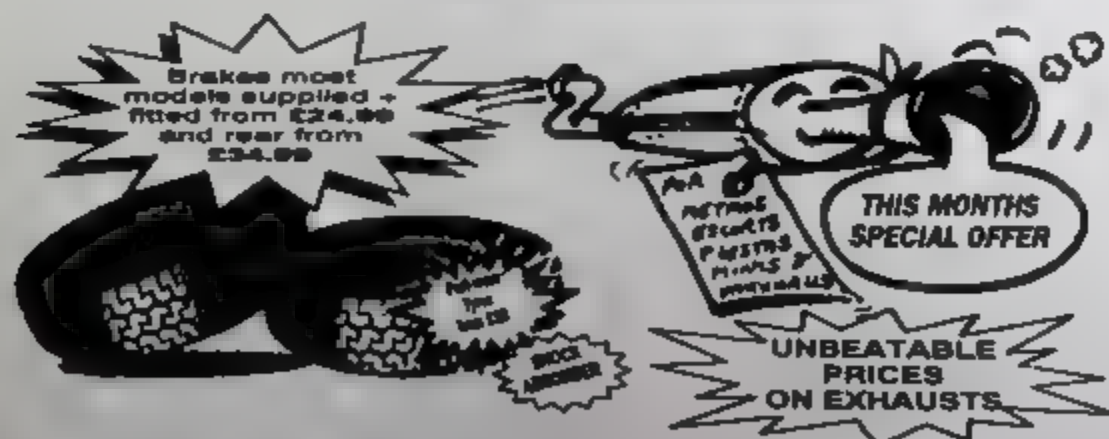
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# Amjad Ali Khan

## The Sarod Maestro



*Music should be felt and experienced. Music satisfies the soul. It can be appreciated without knowing it.*

Amjad Ali Khan was born on 9 October 1945 at Gwalior, where his father was musician to the royal family. He made an early debut giving his first solo recital at the age of 12 in 1958. He represents the sixth generation in a musical family with its origins in Afghanistan. He learnt from his father, Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan from whom he also inherited the classical tradition that goes back to the era of the court musicians of the Mughal Empire and the original Senia-Beentur Gharana musical school devoted to a particular style and tradition of the legendary Mian Tansen in the time of Emperor Akbar. Throughout the sub-continent he is today acknowledged as one of the foremost classical musicians and the maestro of his chosen instrument the Sarod. Communicating his music, even at home, to those who are unfamiliar with it, or intimidated by the classical tag, has always been central to Amjad's philosophy. "There is no essential difference between popular and classical music. Music is music. I want to communicate with the listener who finds Indian classical music remote," he emphasises.

He is no stranger to the international circuit. It is his desire to communicate musically to a wider audience for which he devotes more time outside India. One doesn't have to be equipped with theoretical data or feel awestruck. The uninitiated can respond as well as the expert to the melody, the combination of notes and the beauty of the ragas.

Commenting on his US tour in 1991, the New York Times enthused, "Amjad Ali Khan is the most charismatic performer of Indian ragas to appear here since the glory days of the 1960s. This 'remarkable and compelling artist', the best of new generation, would receive the same exposure and acclaim in the West that Nehru had in the younger generation."

It is a fitting tribute for one who has always insisted that his reputation at home must be secured before venturing abroad. To that end he has worked tirelessly at honing his skills and using them to bring India's younger generation back to classical music in a way that has seldom been attempted before.

Amjad Ali Khan has appeared in Bangladesh and Afghanistan. By visiting Pakistan in 1981, he was the first Indian Musician to break the cultural silence of 25 years between the two countries. He has played throughout the world and is no stranger to other cultures and musical traditions in China, Japan, Moscow, Germany, the UK and the USA.

He is devoted to the cause of promoting and popularising Indian classical music through his regular performances over the All India Radio and Door Darshan - the Indian T.V. He has recorded extensively with companies in India, Europe and the US.

Over the generations, the Bangash Gharana of the traditional Sarod players of Gwalior to which he belongs, he made important contributions both to the development of the Sarod and the expansion and refinement of his repertoire and technique.

Amjad Ali Khan has himself made important contributions to the continuing evolution of the instrument and the music. In addition to composing many new ragas, he has added new forms to the repertoire of the Sarod. Within the discipline of the classical tradition, his innovations have created changes in style and technique and breathed new life into an ancient form.

He believes with conviction that the most original form of music is folk. He has brought popular music, folk songs from different parts of India, nursery rhymes within the orbit of the Sarod and in the process exposed the world to the classical tradition.



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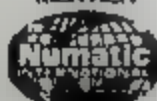
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Shalini Parvez hails from the famous lineage of the 'Ustad Gharana'. He is the son of Ustad Aziz Khan, the famous musician and noted composer, and the grand son of Ustad Wahid Khan, the Surbahar and Sitar virtuoso. Ustad Wahid Khansabeh was the uncle of Ustad Vilayat Khansabeh.

Shalini Parvez was introduced into vocal music and tabla by his illustrious father. Ustad Aziz Khan, ever anxious to understand the knowledge of sur & laya before he was initiated into the art of playing the Sitar.

He was a God-gifted child and he soon paved a place for himself by giving a public performance at the tender age of 8/9 years. He persevered every minute technique and at the same time gave great attention to the purity of Ragas. He gave the utmost effort to improve every aspect of the sense of laya. Kar once the tabla joined in. It was his inherent wish and dedication to provide as much scope for the right hand (hazrat) thus bringing in a perfect combination of Gayaki and Tantra kar ang together and creating a balance which was never before created, however as much importance was given to the left hand i.e. Gayaki ang only.

Shalini Parvez also happens to be an 'A' Grade artist of the AIR (All India Radio) network. He has cut numerous L.P's, C.D's and cassettes here and abroad to the satisfaction of his innumerable listeners. He has toured extensively throughout the globe and enthralled every audience.

For many years now, Shalini Parvez has carved himself a niche amongst the top notch artistes of India and is over in the hearts of music lovers all over the world.

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Some things we do we undertake out of a feeling of duty as responsibility, other things we undertake for personal discovery or happiness. It was a rare privilege for me that on this trip to India both aspects were able to be combined into one. Perhaps there is something about the magic of India which makes this possible. As a peace educator had been invited to address 2 Namdhan Sikh conferences in the Punjab, and also to participate in the 3rd International Conference on Peace & Non-violent Action at Ladnum, Rajasthan.

The conferences in the Punjab with the Namdhan Sikh community were an unforgettable experience. I was able to visit in person to Bhaini Sahib & see the headquarters of the Namdhan community. My guides led me on an intensive 4 hour visit, taking in all the various historic sites associated with the life and teachings of Guru Ram Singh. There is something deeply moving about the atmosphere at Bhaini Sahib & the devotional life which has been sustained there all this being. Being British (albeit a British-Canadian dual citizen) it was particularly instructive to learn in depth about some of the mistakes committed by the British administrator in the course of the 19th century & indeed right on until the achievement of Indian Independence.

The highlight of my trip was the chance to meet in person with His Holiness Sat Guru Jagjil Singh Ji, a warm and deeply caring spiritual leader of the international Sikh community. In particular we agreed on the continuing importance of working for peace & understanding, between religions and nations and peoples worldwide. I look forward to his visit to the U.K. in the spring and believe sincerely that the example of His Holiness as both a spiritual leader and as a man of peace can send a signal of hope to all those trapped in the vicious downward spiral of violence.

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## Rainmaker in bid to stop the drought

# SOUTHALL GAZETTE

An edition of the MIDDLESEX COUNTY TIMES

Friday, August 27, 1976

A Sikh leader flew in to start a four-day rain-making festival in Southall this week as the drought took a firm hold in Ealing Borough.

Sports fixtures were cancelled, huge cracks appeared on football pitches and the borough's biggest annual show was badly hit by water shortage.

The man who hopes to bring rain to Britain was with his followers at a Southall temple last night (Thursday).

Sant Baba Jagt Singh, head

of about 15,000 members of a Sikh sect, was on duty until the daily festival which starts on Sunday.

By next Friday there could be a total ban on working cars, watering lawns and all other non-essential use of water.

Organisers of the Southall Hindu Mahabury Show have cancelled the £200 fireworks display on Monday — usually a spectacular ending to the three day event.

Fire chiefs warned there is the serious fire danger in the tinder dry conditions.

Mr John Gibby, Ealing Council spokesman, said:

"We appreciate the contribution will be a helpful contribution to the town's economy, but we have had to tell us the advice of the fire chiefs."

The National Green Christian Club do not see much glory for the cause, Mrs. Lee Adair, club secretary, said although watering of sports grounds can still provide a few jobs as job-creation for some thousands of jobs.

The club has attended all watering lawns before.

Ealing Council this week decided to give all water being used on lawns, and

lawns, except the school grounds in Watford Park and Brent Lodge.

In spite of the various conditions, however, people in the borough who still legally use sprinklers on lawns and yards have not — until now Friday at least.

That is when the Thames Water Authority hopes to be able to bring in emergency restrictions which will put a ban on:

① Watering by lawns, sports fields or other areas, of parks, recreational grounds, lawns, recreation grounds, sports grounds, playing fields, and golf

courses, both public and private.

② Filling or topping up private swimming pools and recreational pools other than hot pools.

③ Mechanical car washers.

④ Washing road vehicles for any reason other than safety.

⑤ Cleaning the outside of buildings.

⑥ Operating amusement machines or machines, including those where coins are used.

⑦ Using showers which flush automatically when pressure is interrupted.

The authority has been unable to meet these measures earlier because it was not possible

to do so.

Its application for a ban was accompanied by an order to stop the use of London evening papers. The Act specifically requires them to appear in all local newspapers.

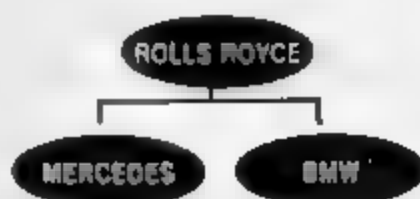
Mr. John Newton, chairman of the authority's water management committee, said: "We will be able to save the public of water each day."

"They will reduce the number of limits to use water for two or three purposes. The alternative is to bring in a standstill which will be difficult and only for as long as the public can stand."



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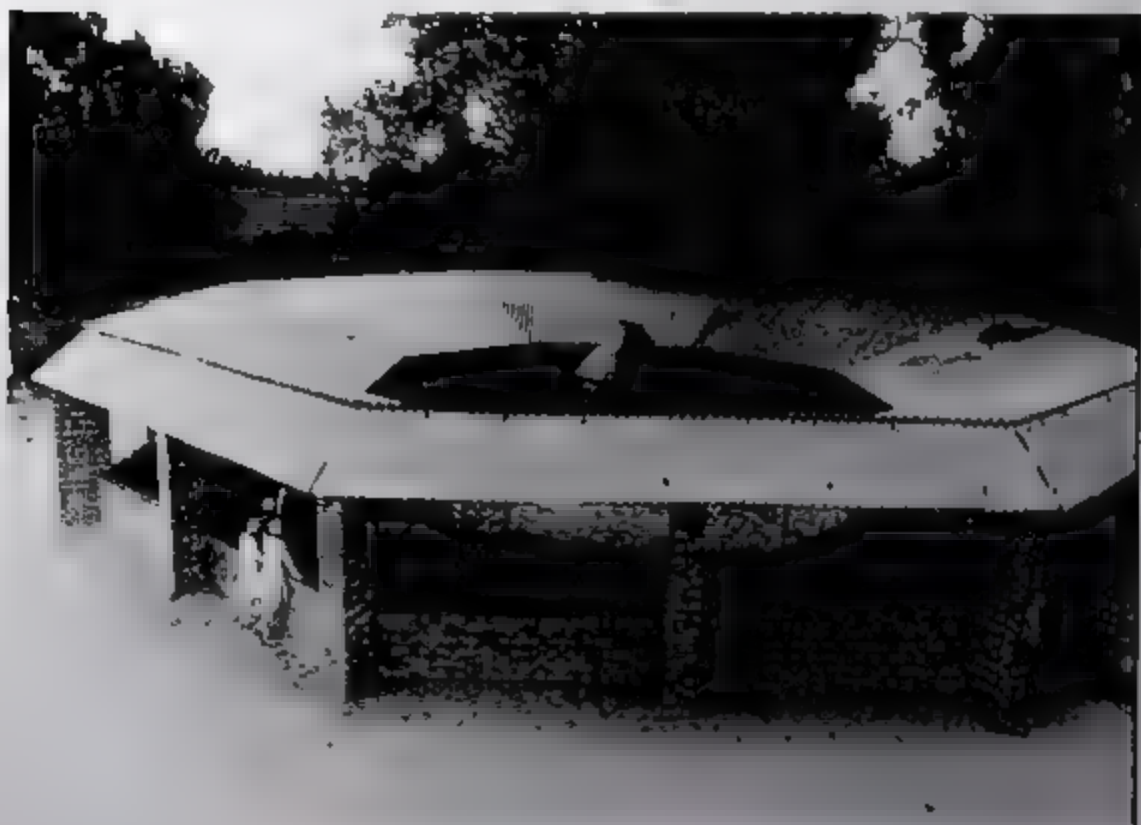
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Tel: 01162 760636  
Mobile: 0860 275132**



*Humble & Whole Hearted Welcome*  
to  
*His Holiness Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Jee*



&

*Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society*

THANKS

To

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# Namdhari Sikh Heritage Society

## OUR ASSOCIATES





# INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

## THE KING OF CONNOISSEURS

MR.B.S. KANWAL

Actually it dates back to the days when I had not seen the light of the day yet, MAHARAJ PARTAP SINGH ji organised a big Kirtan Darbar (Music festival) at Bhaini Sabli in 1931 which ended up to be a milestone in the history of our classical music. The musicians were to perform with their stringed instruments in specific Ragas. The judges were: Bhai Kahn Singh ji Nabha, Bhai Mukand Singh Ambala, Saut Hira Singh and Baba Nihal Singh. As a result Bhai Harnam Singh of Thatha Tihba (Kapurthala) who rendered,

" Narayan nar mai Namaskare  
Arise Guru ko bal bal jaiyi "

This in Darbari Kanra, came out first and Bhai Lal the Sangit-sagar, got the second prize, beside cash, nice mares along with well bred cows were given to them. Baba Malang Khan of Bohan Patti (Hoshiarpur) was also honoured at that time, third prize gone to Bhai Samund Singh of Nankana Sahib. Ever since how Bhaini Sahib has been keeping up progression for the promotion of classical (our) music, makes an interesting study.

If we dig deep into the roots of Patiala Gharana of music we will find that most of its artists were the direct descendants of Bhai Nandji Rababi the legentry Guru of Bhai Mardana ji. The descendants of Bhai Nand ji Rababi of Shri Guru Gobind Singh ji's Darbar migrated to Patiala at some stage and established its school of music. When it came to the last century, Mahant Gajja Singh and Bhai Mehoob Ali Urf Bhai Booba Rababi, were the greatest instrumentalists of India. According to the historian Mr. Macauliffe "Mahant Gajja Singh was the greatest minstrel the sikhs have ever produced ". As it were, sadly Mahant ji died in 1916, leaving all his rich legacy to Bhai Mastan Singh ji, (named as such by Maharaj Partap Singh ji because of his mastangi ecstasy in music, otherwise his real name was Bhai Jiwan Singh ji). Unfortunately Bhai Singh ji died in his young age. This is another example of love for music by Baba Partap Singh ji.

But now, rightly or wrongly, if due to only a few artists a new Gharana of music can come into being - how comes that one is not apt to call Bhaini a TREVENI of all types of Classicism.....even a new Gharana is emergence, when a large number of Nandhari youngsters are having their training from some of our greatest Masters in the field and also, when most of the greatest Ustads deem it to be their privilege to perform before Jagjit Singh ji.....the King of Connoisseurs.

**"O my soul, grasp the protection of the Saint  
and lay aside thy argumentation and cleverness.**

**He within whose heart, Guru's instruction  
abides has goodluck recorded on his brow, O Nanak."**





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